



Public Lecture

Race to the Future?

From Artificial Intelligence to Abundant Imagination

Ruha Benjamin

Tuesday, October 29, 2024, 04.15-06.00 pm

University of Zurich, Rämistrasse 71, Zürich, Room KOL-F-104

A world without prisons? Ridiculous. Schools that foster the genius of every child? Naïve. Work that is fulfilling and fairly compensated? Impossible. A society where everyone has food, shelter...love? In your dreams. *Exactly.*

In this talk, Ruha Benjamin takes us into the liberating power of the imagination. Deadly systems shaped by white supremacy, patriarchy, capitalism, colonialism, and eugenics emerged from the human imagination, and have real-world, often deadly impacts. To fight harmful systems and create a world in which everyone can thrive, we will have to imagine things differently. Drawing on work that critically examines tech-mediated inequities and her engagement with grassroots approaches to viral justice, she invites each of us to consider the role we play in maintaining or transforming the oppressive status quo.



Ruha Benjamin is a Visiting Professor in the interuniversity doctoral program in Gender Studies in Switzerland for the fall semester of 2024. She is Alexander Stewart 1886 Professor of African American Studies at Princeton University, founding director of the Ida B. Wells Just Data Lab, and award-winning author of *Race After Technology* (2019), *Viral Justice* (2022), and *Imagination: A Manifesto* (2024). She is also the recipient of fellowships and awards from the American Council of Learned Societies, National Science Foundation, Marguerite Casey Foundation Freedom Scholar Award, and President's Award for Distinguished Teaching at Princeton. In 2024, Ruha was awarded a MacArthur Foundation "Genius" Fellowship. For more info, visit ruhabenjamin.com

The public lecture is organized by the interuniversity doctoral program in Gender Studies at the University of Zurich. The lecture is part of the Lecture Series in Social Anthropology, organized by the Department of Social Anthropology and Cultural Studies at the University of Zurich, in collaboration with the joint colloquium for the History of Medicine, Science and Anthropocene and the colloquium in Geography of Labor and Political Geography at the University of Zurich.

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