"Blackness is a cypher, where the conversation is intergenerational, international and interdependent."

Minna Salami (2020, p. 92)
German Colonialism and Nazi eugenics:

- German colonizers committed the first genocide of the 20th (1904 - 1908)
  - killed many thousand Herero and Nama in today’s Namibia
    (Olusoga & Erichsen, 2010; Zimmerer & Zelle, 2008)

- Nazi policies of “racial hygiene” systematic murder of millions of people during the Holocaust (Mohsen, 2020).
Continuities of racialization, race-evasive discourse and science

- Race-evasive approaches displace racism temporarily, socially and geographically (Bojadžijev et al., 2017).
- Replacement of the term "Rasse" in the German constitution
- Proxies to study racism: migration background, foreigners, culture etc.
49% of the German population still believe in the existence of "human races" biologic categorizations and cultural hierarchies

(DeZIM, 2022)
Race is not real – but it is real in its consequences!
Communities-led Research – Afrozensus

Perspectives, Engagement and Experiences of Anti-Black Racism of Black, African and Afrodiasporic people in Germany

Filling the (quantitative) gap:

Communities-led Research Project driven by Black communities activism, social movements and scholar activism.

➢ Do-no harm policy to approach communities
➢ Communities data ownership and monitoring
Afrozensus - Approaches

- **Methodological approach**: Numbers do not explain mechanisms:
  - quantitative (online questionnaire) and
  - qualitative research (focus groups and expert interviews)

- **Theoretical approach**: critical, emancipatory, based on Black and African, feminist and decolonial approaches
Afrozensus - Online Survey

- Survey period: July to September 2020
- “Hidden & hard to reach”: hard to reach for whom?
- Snowball sampling by self-identification
- Cooperation and Outreach with 15 Black organizations
- Well-known Black individuals and other organizations (e.g. anti-discrimination agencies)
- 6,419 Participants (before data cleaning)
- 5,793 Total participants
Core principles for collecting anti-discrimination and equality data

1. Self-identification
2. Voluntary participation
3. Clarity about the purpose of data collection
4. Anonymity of respondents
5. Participation of representatives of marginalized groups in the process of data collection, analysis and dissemination
6. Intersectional analysis multiple identities, grounds for discrimination
7. Principle of non-harm (data must not be misused)
Two central premises of the Afrozensus:

1. Black communities are inherently diverse and simultaneously have shared experiences.

2. Anti-Black racism is characterized by very specific racist attributions and patterns experienced by Black, African and Afro-diasporic people in Germany and globally.
Diversity Dimensions

- Gender identity(ies)
- Sexual orientation/identities
- age
- Place of residence (urban/rural; east/west)
- Disability and/or impairment
- Religious affiliation in relation to anti-Muslim racism
- Nationality
- Refugee experience
- Migration background
- education
- income
- Marital status in relation to single parents
- Number of African/afro-diasporic parents
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>never</th>
<th>rarely</th>
<th>sometimes</th>
<th>often</th>
<th>very often</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Public space and leisure</td>
<td>6.8%</td>
<td>20.4%</td>
<td>37.1%</td>
<td>22.0%</td>
<td>13.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Media and Internet</td>
<td>14.5%</td>
<td>13.9%</td>
<td>21.5%</td>
<td>25.7%</td>
<td>24.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shops and services</td>
<td>14.9%</td>
<td>23.6%</td>
<td>36.1%</td>
<td>18.2%</td>
<td>7.3%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Working life</td>
<td>15.3%</td>
<td>22.8%</td>
<td>33.0%</td>
<td>18.1%</td>
<td>10.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private life</td>
<td>17.0%</td>
<td>31.3%</td>
<td>32.9%</td>
<td>12.9%</td>
<td>5.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Police</td>
<td>17.9%</td>
<td>21.6%</td>
<td>25.1%</td>
<td>19.2%</td>
<td>16.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>18.9%</td>
<td>24.7%</td>
<td>31.0%</td>
<td>16.3%</td>
<td>9.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Security personnel</td>
<td>23.7%</td>
<td>24.2%</td>
<td>23.9%</td>
<td>17.0%</td>
<td>11.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing market</td>
<td>25.9%</td>
<td>16.5%</td>
<td>21.5%</td>
<td>18.7%</td>
<td>17.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public agencies and authorities</td>
<td>33.5%</td>
<td>21.8%</td>
<td>22.2%</td>
<td>14.4%</td>
<td>8.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health and care</td>
<td>35.4%</td>
<td>27.7%</td>
<td>23.5%</td>
<td>9.1%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Justice system</td>
<td>38.9%</td>
<td>19.5%</td>
<td>19.5%</td>
<td>12.6%</td>
<td>9.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arts and culture</td>
<td>45.8%</td>
<td>24.8%</td>
<td>17.3%</td>
<td>8.4%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Banks and insurance companies</td>
<td>53.2%</td>
<td>23.5%</td>
<td>14.6%</td>
<td>5.9%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
97,3% experienced Anti-Black Racism
Anti-Black Racism – Patterns and Dynamics

• Processes of othering
• (Hyper-) sexualisation
• Criminalisation
• Qualifications and skills not being recognised or questioned
• De-individualisation and homogenisation
• Denial of ABR experience
Dual exclusion mechanism:

• Discrimination in the utilisation of care as well as through non-utilisation, i.e. anticipated discrimination due to avoiding care structures.

• Racist aggression or violence in the provision of care exacerbates structural deficits.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Skin colour</td>
<td>74.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Racist reasons/&quot;ethnic origin&quot;</td>
<td>72.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name</td>
<td>28.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender</td>
<td>22.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hair/beard</td>
<td>15.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Language</td>
<td>13.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social status/social background</td>
<td>11.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Doctor doesn’t take my complaints seriously.

- Yes: 66.7%
- No: 33.3%
- Sometimes: 21.6%
- Rarely: 21.3%
- Often: 14.2%
- Very often: 9.5%

N = 2108
Psychotherapy: experience of racism called into question.

N = 819

- Yes: 62.0%
  - Often: 14.3%
  - Sometimes: 15.9%
- No: 38.0%
  - Rarely: 11.7%
  - Very often: 20.1%
98%

n = 4339 assume that discrimination occurs in the area of “health and care”

14.7% state that they have avoided the health care system in the past two years for fear of discrimination.
Consequences

- Discontinuation and delay of treatment or therapy
- Avoidance
- Mental stress / burden
- Additional costs
Recommendations for action for politics and administration

- Address racism in its structures and institutions, develop expertise that is critical of racism and understand racism as a significant factor impacting the health of Black people.
- Psychotherapeutic care: special needs / therapists with racism-critical skills and competencies
- Systematically promote access to medical training specifically for black people
- Evaluation of current treatment concepts and training programs
Recommendations for action for Black, African and Afro-diasporic communities

- Sharing knowledge: too few self-organized spaces in which Black, African and Afro-diasporic communities and self-organizations can share information about navigating the health care system.

- Complaints mechanisms: Black individuals and associations have so far made too little use of official complaints mechanisms
  → demands and needs to the medical associations and psychotherapeutic institutions.
Research on Racism and Health in Germany

- Study racial disparities: German health care system and effects of racism on health.
- Race-evasive approaches are dominant
- History of medical research is based on violence - historical events have had a lasting impact on marginalized communities
- German Science lacks both lack of differentiated concepts and data
- Examining race and the processes of racialization and its effects on health
"Black empowerment, enlightenment, networking, education, new terminologies that can give a name to what is experienced and thus make it real and also tangible for others."

"Indeed, there is knowledge. Indeed, there is experience."

"[This knowledge] however, is not being recognised to matter."
# Self-positioning

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>74.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>African-German</td>
<td>53.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Person of Colour</td>
<td>45.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>African Diaspora</td>
<td>21.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>African</td>
<td>20.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Muslim</td>
<td>3.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>1.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
"Anti-Black Racism (ABR) is a specific form of racism and has been a tradition in Europe and Germany since the time of enslavement. ABR is a specific degradation, dehumanisation and racist discrimination of Black people of African descent. Regardless of the reality of discrimination/hierarchisation according to 'skin tone' (colourism), ABR cannot be reduced to discrimination based on 'skin colour', as specific dynamics exist in anti-Black discrimination, and these are experienced by people of different 'skin tones'."