



















# "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%

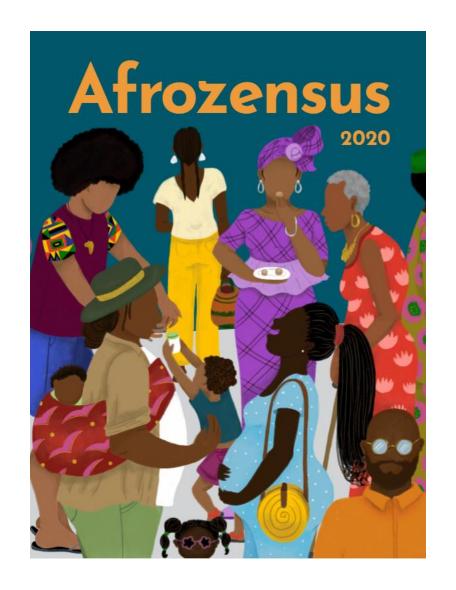
of the German population still believe in the existence of "human races"

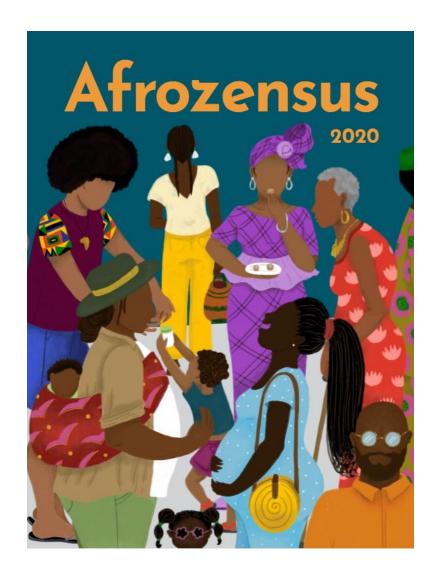
biologistic categorizations and cultural hierarchies

(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**

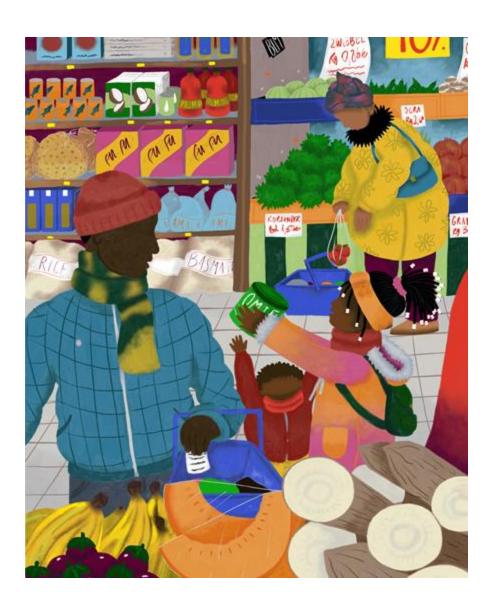
- Survey period: July to September 2020
- "Hidden & hard to reach": hard to reach for whom?
- Snowball sampling by self-identification
- Cooperation and Outreach with 15 Black organizations
- well-known Black individuals and other organizations (e.g. anti-discrimination agencies)
- 6.419 Participants (before data cleaning)
- 5,793 Total participants



## Core principles for collecting anti-discrimination and equality data

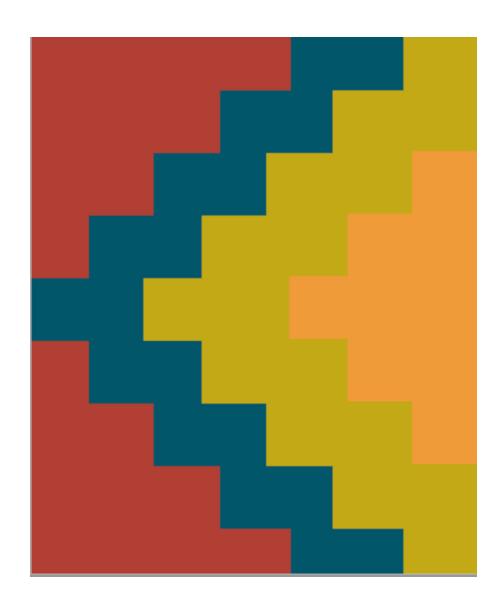
- 1. Self-identification
- 2. Voluntary participation
- 3. Clarity about the purpose of data collection
- 4. Anonymity of respondents
- 5. Participation of representatives of marginalized groups in the process of data collection, analysis and dissemination
- 6. Intersectional analysis multiple identities,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





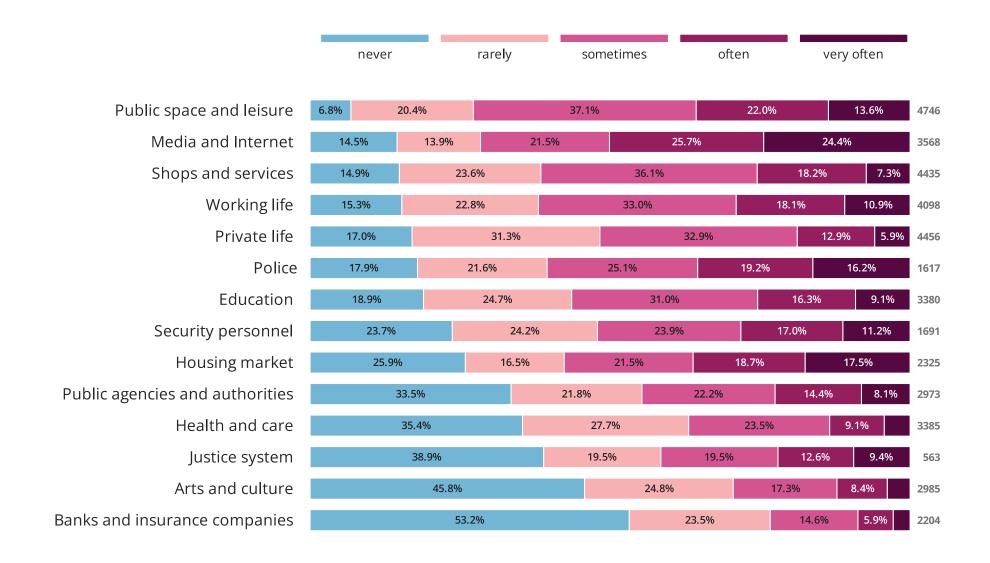
#### Two central premises of the Afrozensus:

- 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





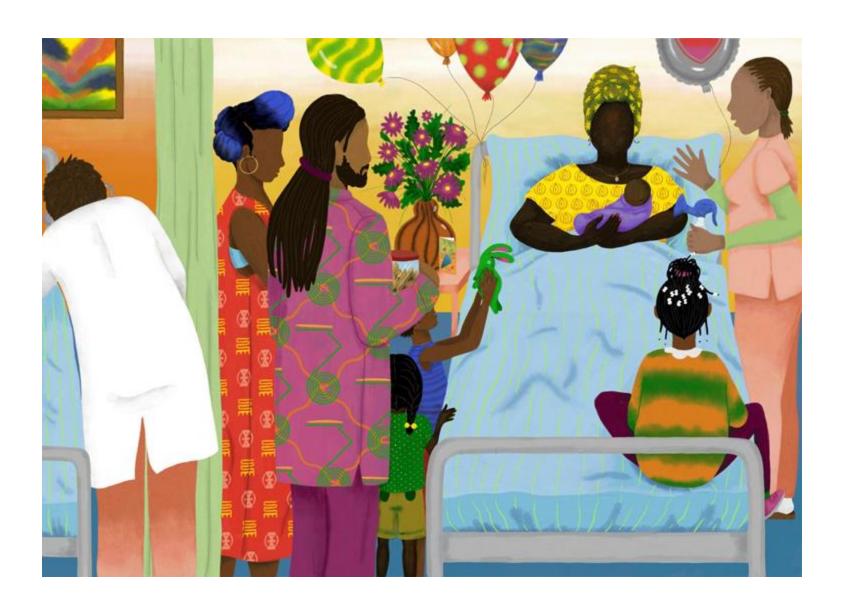
97,3%

**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

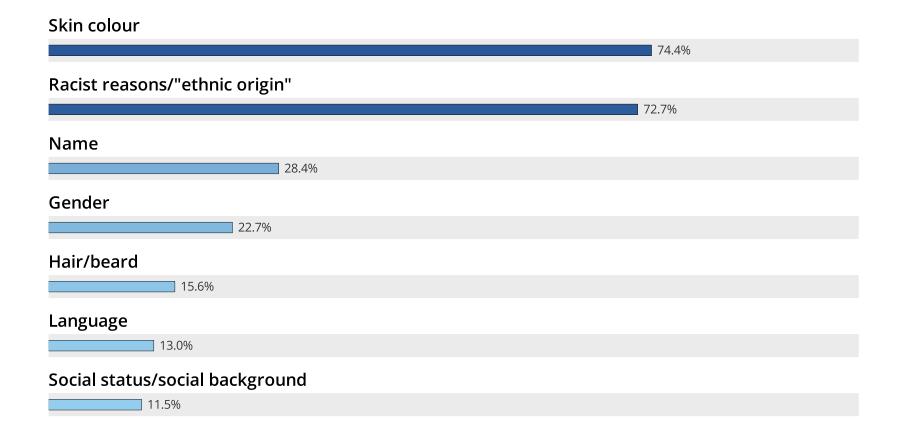


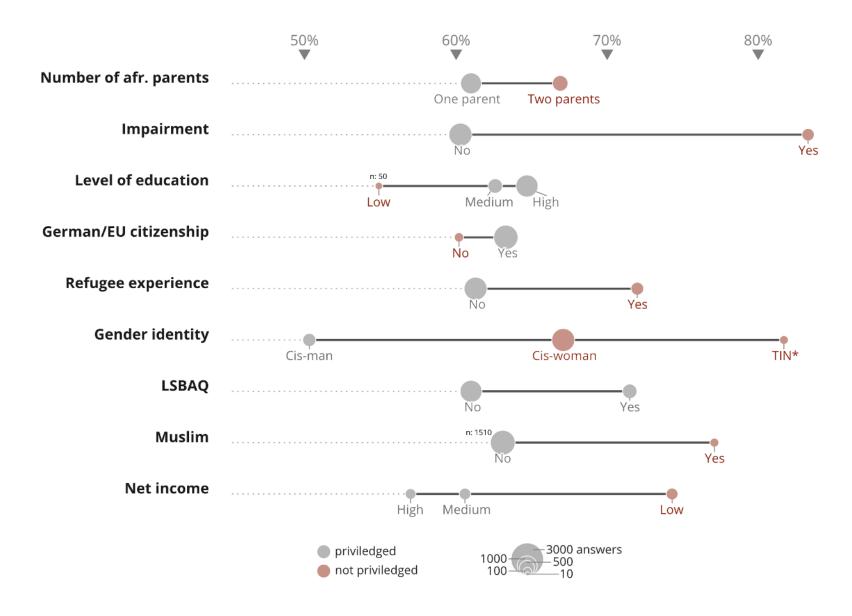


#### **Dual exclusion mechanism:**

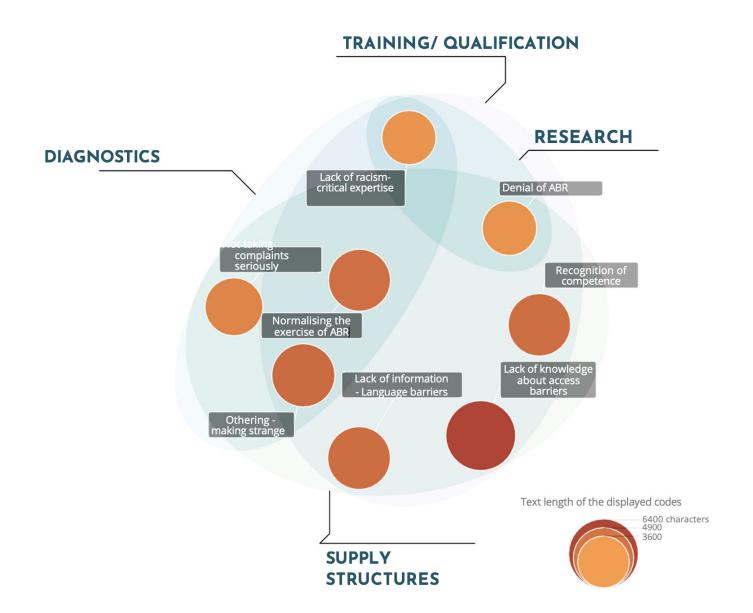
- Discrimination in the utilisation of care as well as through nonutilisation, i.e. anticipated discrimination due to avoiding care structures.
- Racist aggression or violence in the provision of care exacerbates structural deficits.

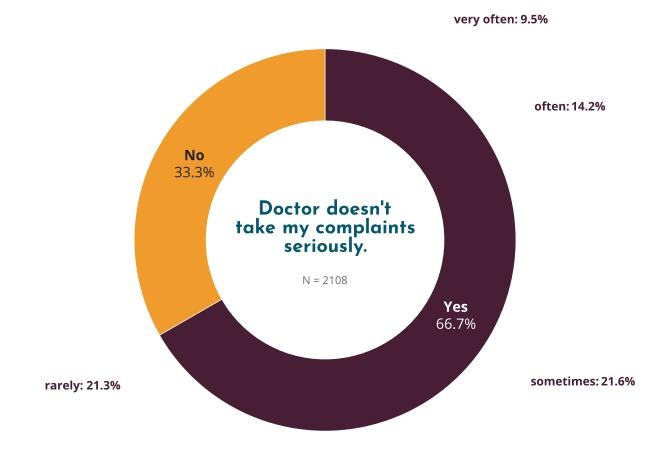


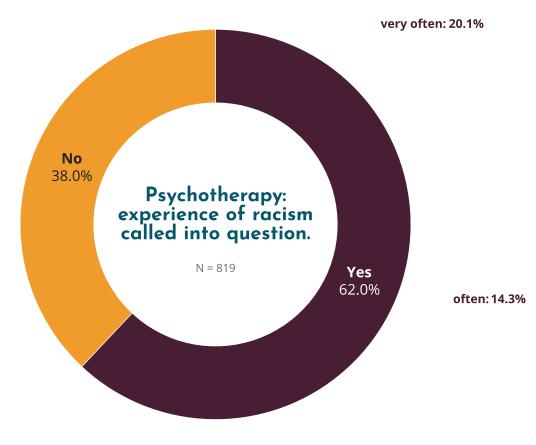














## 98%

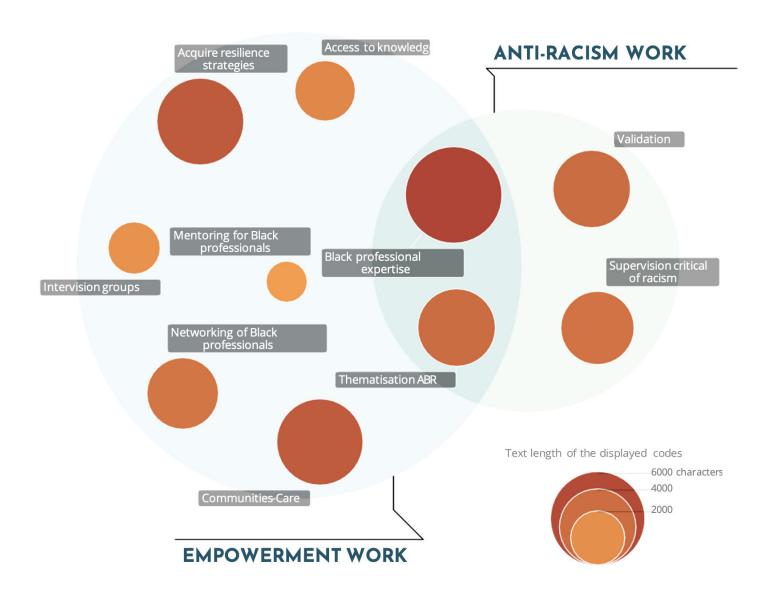
n = 4339 assume that discrimination occurs in the area of "health and care"

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



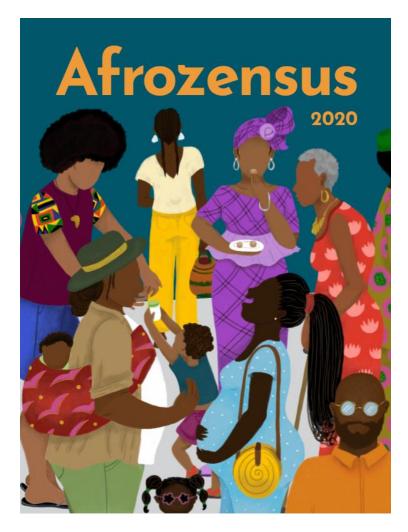


"Black empowerment, enlightenment, networking, education, new terminologies that can give a name to what is experienced and thus make it real and also tangible for others."

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

"[This knowledge] however, is not being recognised to matter."



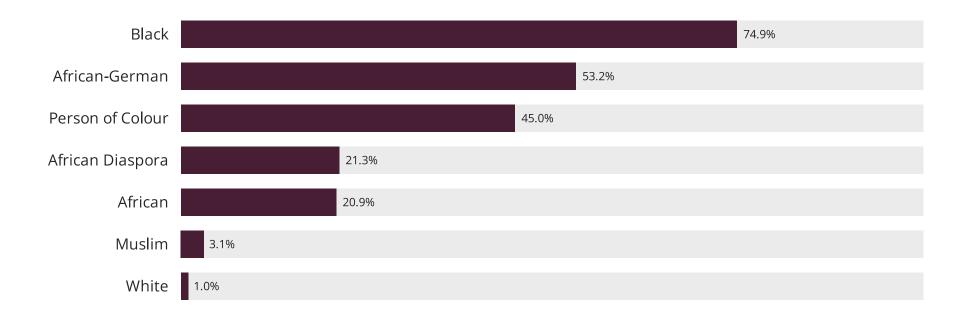




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## **Self-positioning**





"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'."