

## **Nations, races, genes, and genomes: bio-political identities in the 20<sup>th</sup> -21<sup>st</sup> centuries.**

The aim of the workshop is to investigate how the seemingly pervasive approaches, concepts, and research tools used by the universalizing, transnational, and still mostly Western, scientific community of human geneticists took on different shapes, as they intertwined with national projects and their implementation: nation-building projects, national narratives, assertions regarding the “racial uniqueness”, the “biological homogeneity” – or, on the contrary, the “distinctive racial mix” – supposed to characterize human populations living on one or another continent. Symmetrically, we seek to understand how ‘*race*’, ‘*nation*’, and later on ‘*ancestry*’ came to play a key role in the national, often transnational, but always localized practice of human genetics/genomics, using constantly updated technologies. We intend to trace the complex interplay and tensions between universalizing scientific notions, and local(ized) socio-political categories and practices since the interwar period, and follow the ways in which the agents of genetic research interacted with various institutions of power, at the international, national and local level. Of special interest to us is the analysis of the manifold interactions that took place between Western scientists and local/national researchers, helpers, collectors, etc., in new states as well as in colonial and postcolonial contexts.