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Race Representations in French TV Programmes: Realistic Discriminations of a National Social Imaginary.
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Abstract

What would we know about our society if we had to know it only through TV programmes? How it could inform us about social (race, class, gender) relations in our present world? My research field is an entire day of French television (Friday 28 January 2000), as broadcasted by the main television networks. I consider those programmes like a "social world" and I try to understand its rules, norms and values as if I were an anthropologist observing an "exotic"
society. It appears that this virtual social world is structured by two dynamics: social inversion and the fear of social inversion. On one hand, subaltern majorities become quantitative minorities: women, lower classes and North Africans (among non-White people).
On the other hand, those minorities appear as threats, because of their treachery, their laziness, their resentment. In a way, it is a realistic snapshot of the effects of the French Republicanism on social imaginary, caused by, despite empirical discriminations, an abstract and universal (i.e. gender and colour blind) conception of equality.

About the Author

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