

It is very likely among white Italians to hear jokes, phrases, accents, expressions manifesting a continuous racist background noise. It is absorbed at school, in the family, at the playground, on the street, at the supermarket, on the bus. It is so well absorbed that also those that claim to be anti-racist in some cases get accustomed to it and in others they think that at the end is not a bad joke, that they are not perpetuating racism.

How does propaganda in contemporary society contribute to spread xenophobia and prejudices on the migrant as the dominant ideology within the democratic system, functional to the political/economic order (migrant seen, according to the need of the States and the global economy, as a resource, threat or victim in the name of security, welfare and national identity)?

How is it perpetuated racism through media such television, internet, newspaper, advertisement, etc.?

**Igiaba Scego:** "I think that racism today in Italy is the result of colonialism. Unfortunately I see very precise colonial mechanisms that operate towards women, especially women, but also men, etc. There are keywords or key concepts that are taken from that past and applied in today's world. It is no coincidence that two years ago two guys from Senegal were killed in Florence by a neo-fascist linked to a group called Casa Pound - at least he claimed to be tied to it, they said he was not, anyway we will never know the true story. He took a gun and killed two people and injured three, just because they were black. So that is precisely part of an ideology, a racist ideology that stems from the racial laws of '38 that targeted Jews and colonial subjects: partly Eritreans, Somalis, Libyans and Ethiopians.

In the book I'm writing I speak about a female figure and all the stereotypes imputed to her. When black women are talked about in Italy it is said that they are sensual, available, a "thing to be used". There is an old book written in 1934 by Mitrano Sani, a writer of that period, in which it is said that Eno, a Somali woman, is a "thing that the white men use when he has carnal needs". It is a very heavy sentence for a book of that time, but then I see the same logic repeated in erotic movies such as the one with Ines Pellegrini or Zeudi Araya, I see it in the 80s commercials like the Morositas one but also in more recent advertising.

In general the black body is considered a hyper-sexualized body, both female and male bodies. There was an advertisement for liquorice, I can't remember the brand, that said: "After dinner don't have a sleepless night. End your night with a black". So there have always been these sly allusions... In another commercial, "Coloreria Italiana" (a product to dye textiles) there is a woman who puts her husband, a pallid and very pinched man, in the washing machine together with the "Coloreria Italiana" product and then it comes out a black, beautiful, hunky man.

Additionally, the body is seen as a metaphor of foodstuff, like chocolate, sensual and naked. For example you can find this in "Magnum" ice-cream commercials, I guess this is the brand, either chocolate or coffee, always something to eat. This makes me crazy. Even the Fiona May commercial where there are those two chocolate slices with white milk cream in the middle. In other words these are messages that convey something annoying, heavy, that when you look at them you say, why are they doing it again?"

Recently I found a creepy news on the web that tells that during the next fall it will be aired on Rai Uno, the public national channel, prime time The Mission, a "humanitarian" reality show where eight celebrities (such as among the others Emanuele Filiberto, a member of the House of Savoy and the only male-line grandson of Umberto II, the last King of Italy) will go, together with the operators of UNHCR, the UN agency for refugees, and the NGO Intersos in some of the many refugees camps around the world, especially in Africa.

VIPs will, official sources said, "give away a few days of light-heartedness to the local population." I am shocked by this spectacle of despair, from this missionary tourism, from this humanitarian pornography. The refugees are instrumentalized, treated as exotic background of the "Mission"! Horrible!

Not to speak about the title "Mission" which brings us back to the corrupted "humanitarian" and "civilizing" values, used by the church during the colonial campaign. How can we not speak about the perpetuation of coloniality today?

1. When I listen at the newscast that Abdul Guibre, Samb Modou e Diop Mor have been brutally killed, I say we have been lied to: Mussolini is not dead; 2. when I read on the newspaper about the statutory provisions on the subject of immigration, I say we have been lied to: Mussolini is not dead;

3. if by opening a link on internet I read that in Nardò hired hands are subjected to true exploitation conditions, I say we have been lied to: Mussolini is not dead; 4. when I read on a foreign newspaper that in Affile has been erected a monument in memory of a fascist and colonialist general, I say we have been lied to: Mussolini is not dead; 5. when I listen at the radio the inhuman state in which thousands of women and men are forced to live at the identification and deportation centers, I say we have been lied to: Mussolini is not dead; 6. when finally, I connect to internet and I watch on Youtube a crew of young girls attacking a girl of the same age because she is black, I say we have been lied to: Mussolini is not dead.

7. Mussolini is not one. It is an apparatus of ogres, corrupted and bribed men.

Here below the pictures of the intervention in spaces of amnesia.

