

**From ‘A light unto the nations’ to ‘the land of the white man’:
Global migration and recent shifts in the racialization of migrants in Israel**

Matan Kaminer

In recent decades groups of migrants from all over the global South – South and Southeast Asia, Latin America, West and East Africa – have arrived in Israel. With special reference to Thai farmworkers and East African asylum seekers, I will argue that attempts to discipline and exclude these groups from formal and substantive citizenship have increasingly taken on an explicitly racial nature. This blunt discourse contrasts sharply with the disavowed racial content of the previously dominant distinction between Jews and Arabs, as the new racial typecasting of immigrants and asylum-seekers draws from the rising global imaginary race as well as from the particular position each migrant group is forced into in the Israeli labor market.