Public performances comprise important sites in the interdiscursive unfolding of how events gain political significance and meaning. In this paper, I discuss how racializing discourses of bodies in (or out of) place are circulated across contexts, spaces and modalities of performance, focusing in particular on how such performances may give rise to constructive moments of provocation, or turbulent disjuncture. These are moments where clashing orders of significance and established frames of interdiscursivity and interpretation may be shaken, modified or upset. In particular, I refer to how such moments may comprise pointers to an ethics of engagement with very different others in highly diverse contexts. I frame a discussion of the data in terms of the thinking of the philosophers Levinas and Agamben, and conclude by asking what implication their work may carry for an ethical sociolinguistics in an entangled world.

Keywords: race, semiotics, performance.