SAWYER SEMINAR AT RUTGERS NEWARK

NATIVES AND NATIVISTS MIGRANTS AND IMMIGRANTS — IN AN AMERICAN CITY A CONVERSATION ABOUT WHO WE ARE AS A NATION

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8

BLACK CITIZENSHIP





The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation has awarded a grant of \$225,000 dollars to Rutgers University—Newark to support a Sawyer Seminar on the Comparative Study of Cultures entitled "Natives and Immigrants in an American City."

The seminar series is organized by Belinda Edmondson, professor of African American and African Studies, Kornel Chang, associate professor in History and American Studies, and Sean Mitchell, associate professor in Sociology and Anthropology.

Based at Rutgers-Newark, a university with a highly diverse student body, a highly active scholarly faculty, and deep roots as an anchor institution in the city of Newark, this seminar series examines the past, present, and future of Newark in order to examine race, inequality, and immigration in the constantly changing immigrant cultures of America's cities.

It comes at an especially critical moment in our nation's history, when race, immigration and inequality can no longer be ignored or sidelined.

In the project abstract, the researchers assert that during the current global pandemic, the future of US cities—of immigration and urbanization; nativism and inclusion; gentrification and urban abandonment—has been thrown into question in a way that has not been true for decades or perhaps more.

Newark, NJ has long been a microcosm of such conflicts, in both reality and in popular imaginations. From the Jewish Newark threatened Philip Roth's The Plot Against America; to the Newark of an African American uprising and 1970s; to today's Newark of diverse immigrant populations of gentrification Newark, imagined by developers to be no better site to think through the tensions of urbanization brought to light by the COVID-19 pandemic than Newark."

During the Fall 2022 and Spring 2023 semesters, "Natives and Nativists, Migrants and Immigrants in an American City" comprises of a series of panels and workshops that draw on the expertise and research projects of Rutgers-Newark faculty and graduate students, local, national, and global scholars, and bring together community activists, scholars and local artists who focus on these issues

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8 _____

BLACK CITIZENSHIP

This seminar explores the relationship between Black communities, both native-born and immigrant, and the question of American citizenship. It explores this relationship in various contexts: through political ideologies, religious communities, and shared cultural heritage.

SCHEDULE

WELCOME ADDRESS BY DEAN JACQUELINE MATTIS

10:00-10:15 AM

Jacqueline Mattis, Dean, School of Arts & Sciences-Newark, Rutgers University, Newark

A CONVERSATION BETWEEN SALAMISHAH TILLET AND CLAUDIA RANKINE

10:15-11:45 AM

Salamishah Tillet, Henry Rutgers Professor, Africana Studies and Creative Writing, Rutgers University, Newark Claudia Rankine, Professor, Creative Writing Program, New York University

BLACK CITIZENSHIP

1:00-2:30 PM

Kimberley Johnson, Professor, Social & Cultural Analysis, New York University

Niambi Carter, Associate Professor, School of Public Policy, University of Maryland, College Park

Yarimar Bonilla, Professor, Anthropology, Graduate Center, City University of New York Reuel Rogers, Associate Professor, Political Science, Northwestern University Moderator: Hyacinth Miller, Assistant Teaching Professor, Africana Studies and Political Science, Rutgers University, Newark

BLACK CITIZENSHIP AND RELIGION

3:00-4:30 PM

John Jackson, Professor and Dean, University of Pennsylvania

Zain Abdullah, Associate Professor, Religion, Temple University

Todne Thomas, Associate Professor, African American Religious Studies, Harvard Divinity School

Carlos Decena, Professor, Latino and Caribbean Studies and Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, Rutgers University, New Brunswick Moderator: Wendell Marsh, Assistant Professor, Africana

Newark

MEET OUR PARTICIPANTS

SPEAKERS



Jacqueline Mattis
Dean, School of Arts & Sciences-Newark,
Rutgers University, Newark

Jacqueline S. Mattis earned her B.A. in psychology from New York University, and her M.S. and Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from the University of Michigan. Prior to assuming the role of Dean of SASN, she served as Professor of Psychology and Associate Department Chair for Diversity Initiatives in the Department of Psychology at the University of Michigan. She also co-directed the Center for the Study of Black Youth in Context. She previously served as Chairperson of the Department of Applied Psychology at New York University's Steinhardt School of Culture Education and Human Development.

Salamishah Tillet

Henry Rutgers Professor, Africana Studies and Creative Writing, Rutgers University, Newark

Salamishah Tillet is a scholar, writer, and activist, awarded the Pulitzer Prize for Criticism in 2022 for her work as a contributing critic at large for *The New York Times* where she has been writing since 2015. She is the author of *In Search of the Color Purple: The Story of an American Masterpiece* (Abrams, 2021), and *Sites of Slavery: Citizenship and Racial Democracy in the Post-Civil Rights Imagination* (Duke University Press, 2012). She is also the executive director of Express Newark.



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Claudia Rankine

Professor, Creative Writing Program, New York University Claudia Rankine is the author of five books of poetry, including Citizen: An American Lyric and Don't Let Me Be Lonely: An American Lyric; three plays including HELP, which premiered in March 2020 (The Shed, NYC), and The White Card, which premiered in February 2018 (ArtsEmerson/American Repertory Theater) and was published by Graywolf Press in 2019; as well as numerous video collaborations. Her recent collection of essays, Just Us: An American Conversation, was published by Graywolf Press in 2020. She is also the co-editor of several anthologies including The Racial Imaginary: Writers on Race in the Life of the Mind.

Kimberley Johnson

Professor, Social & Cultural Analysis, New York University

Kimberley Johnson is Professor of Social and Cultural Analysis at New York University, and Affiliate Faculty Member of the Wilf Family Department of Politics and the Wagner School of New York University. Johnson's research focuses on American and urban political development, urban and local politics, and race and ethnic politics. Johnson is the author of two books, *Reforming Jim Crow* (Oxford University Press, 2010) and *Governing the American State* (Princeton University Press, 2007), and numerous articles on American political development and its intersection with racial and ethnic politics including the "The Color Line and the State: Race and American Political Development." Current research projects focus on African American urban and suburban politics and black urban geographies of the Jim Crow era.





Niambi Carter Associate Professor, School of Public Policy, University of Maryland, College Park

Niambi Carter is an Associate Professor in the School of Public Policy at University of Maryland. She is the author of the award-winning text *American While Black: African Americans, Immigration, and the Limits of Citizenship* (Oxford University Press, 2019). Her research examines public opinion and political behavior with respect to immigration. As a scholar of racial and ethnic politics in the United States, her work centers experiences of Black people. Her next book-length project examines U.S. Haitian refugee policy from the Carter administration to the Biden administration. A former Woodrow Wilson Center Fellow, Carter is a recipient of an NSF grant as part of the Build and Broaden initiative. Her work has appeared in a number of outlets, such as the DuBois Review, Politics, Groups and Identities and the National Review of Black Politics.

Yarimar Bonilla Professor, Anthropology, Graduate Center, City University of New York

Dr. Yarimar Bonilla, Ph.D. is the Director of the Center for Puerto Rican Studies at Hunter College, and a professor in the Department of Africana, Puerto Rican and Latino Studies at Hunter College as well as in the Ph.D. Program in Anthropology at the Graduate Center of the City University of New York. Dr. Bonilla is a prominent public intellectual and a leading voice on Caribbean and Latinx politics. She is a regular contributor to publications such as El Nuevo Dia, The New York Times, The Nation, and The Washington Post, and is a frequent guest on National Public Radio and news programs such as Democracy Now! Dr. Bonilla is the author of Non-Sovereign Futures: French Caribbean Politics in the Wake of Disenchantment (University of Chicago Press, 2012) and co-editor of Aftershocks of Disaster: Puerto Rico Before and After the Storm (Haymarket Press, 2019). Her current book project, Shattered Futures, for which she was named a 2018-20 Carnegie Fellow, focuses on the political and social impact of Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico.





Reuel Rogers
Associate Professor, Political Science,
Northwestern University

Professor Rogers' main interests are in American Politics. His research and teaching engage with questions about the intersection of race, ethnicity, immigration, place, and political behavior as well as with topics in public opinion and urban politics. His first book *Afro-Caribbean Immigrants and the Politics of Incorporation* explores how Caribbean-born blacks are changing and complicating black politics in New York City and the United States.

Hyacinth Miller

Assistant Teaching Professor, Africana Studies and Political Science, Rutgers University, Newark

Hyacinth Miller is an Assistant Teaching Professor in the Rutgers University - Newark School of Arts and Sciences Africana Studies and Political Science Departments. She has also worked as a Lecturer in the Department of Latino and Caribbean Studies at the New Brunswick campus. Her research focuses on Black women in politics, Caribbean immigrants in the Diaspora, immigrant political incorporation, and comparative politics.





John Jackson
Professor and Dean, University of Pennsylvania

John L. Jackson, Jr., is the Walter H. Annenberg Dean of the Annenberg School for Communication and Richard Perry University Professor at the University of Pennsylvania. He was previously Dean of the School of Social Policy & Practice and Special Adviser to the Provost on Diversity at Penn. John L. Jackson, Jr. is a filmmaker and urban anthropologist who works at the intersection of visual culture, critical race theory, media studies, and the ethnography of diasporic religions.

Zain AbdullahAssociate Professor, Religion, Temple University

Zain Abdullah is Associate Professor of Race, Religion and Racism in the Religion Department at Temple University. He is the author of Black Mecca: The African Muslims of Harlem (Oxford University Press), and his articles have appeared in the Journal of the American Academy of Religion, Anthropological Quarterly, the Journal of History and Culture, African Arts, The Muslim World, and other periodicals. Professor Abdullah has been quoted in The New York Times, The Washington Post, The Atlantic magazine and other news outlets.





Todne ThomasAssociate Professor, African American Religious Studies, Harvard Divinity School

Todne Thomas, PhD, is a socio-cultural anthropologist and Associate Professor of African American Religious Studies at Harvard Divinity School. In collaboration with Afro-Caribbean and African American congregants, Thomas conducts ethnographic research on the racial, spatial, and familial dynamics of black Christian communities in the U.S. Conceptually, her work integrates critical race and kinship theories to understand the racial and moral scripts of evangelicalism and neoliberalism.

Carlos Decena

Professor, Latino and Caribbean Studies and Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, Rutgers University, New Brunswick

Carlos Ulises Decena is an interdisciplinary scholar, whose work straddles the humanities and social sciences and whose intellectual projects engage and blur the boundaries among critical ethnic, queer and feminist studies and social justice. He is the author of Tacit Subjects: Belonging and Same-Sex Desire among Dominican Immigrant Men (Duke UP 2011) and Circuits of the Sacred: A Faggotology in the Black Latinx Caribbean (Duke UP 2023).





Wendell Marsh

Wendell Marsh, Assistant Professor, Africana Studies, Rutgers University, Newark

Wendell Marsh is Assistant Professor of Africana Studies at Rutgers University-Newark. He is a post-disciplinary scholar of Islam in Africa, textuality, and the theory and practice of African Studies. His first research project on the Muslim polymath from colonial Senegal Shaykh Musa Kamara stages a reflection on the entanglements of Africa, Islam, and modernity, by way of a close study of the forms of textual knowledge produced by and about Kamara over the course of the twentieth century. He was awarded the Ford dissertation fellowship for his work.

MADE POSSIBLE BY OUR TEAM:



Belinda Edmondson, Principal Investigator

Belinda Edmondson is a scholar of Caribbean literature at Rutgers University, Newark, where she holds a joint appointment in English and Africana Studies. Her most recent book is Creole Noise: Early Caribbean Dialect Literature and Performance (Oxford UP, 2022).

Kornel Chang, Co-Principal Investigator

Kornel Chang is Associate Professor of History and American Studies at Rutgers University, Newark. His research and teaching interests include Asian American history, the United States in the Pacific world, and race, migration, and labor in the Americas. His current book project, tentatively titled Occupying Knowledge: Expertise, Technocracy, and De-Colonization in the U.S. Occupation of Korea, examines the role of technocrats and expert knowledge in the U.S. Occupation of Korea.





Sean T. Mitchell, Co-Principal Investigator

Sean T. Mitchell is Associate Professor of Anthropology and director of Peace and Conflict Studies at Rutgers University, Newark. He writes about inequality politics in Brazil and elsewhere. He is the author of Constellation of Inequality: Space, Race and Utopia in Brazil (Chicago 2017) and coeditor of Precarious Democracy: Ethnographies of Hope, Despair and Resistance in Brazil (Rutgers 2021), among other works.

Bernie Lombardi, Postdoctoral Associate

Bernie Lombardi is Postdoctoral Associate in Africana Studies at Rutgers University, Newark and has been on the team at the Newark City of Learning Collaborative since 2016. His publications have appeared or are forthcoming in Research in African Literatures, College Literature, The Black Scholar, and the edited collection Langston Hughes in Context (Cambridge UP 2023). He also blogs about books and contemporary literary culture on Instagram: @bernie.lombardi.





Christina Strasburger,
Department Administrator, History and Africana Studies

Christina Strasburger is an administrative and academic professional with over two decades of experience in higher education. She provides a range of education, information, and advocacy services for students, faculty, staff, and community. She is co-founder of the award-winning Queer Newark Oral History Project, a community-directed initiative dedicated to recording and preserving the history of LGBTQ+ people in and of Newark, NJ.



Mi Hyun Yoon, Graduate Assistant

Mi Hyun Yoon is a PhD candidate in American Studies at Rutgers University, Newark. Her research looks at the history of the Korean diaspora in the United States through the transnational context of Asian America and Korea. Her latest article is "Kung Flu and Roof Koreans: Asian/Americans as the Hated Other and Proxies of Hating in the White Imaginary" (Journal of Hate Studies, 2021).

Iliana Smith, Graduate Assistant

Iliana Smith is an English Master's Candidate at Rutgers University, where she focuses on Caribbean postwar literary movements and visual culture. She has presented at the 2022 Black Portraiture Conference, where she co-organized the panel "Performance, Poetics, & the Story: A Merging of Interdisciplinary Expression and Identity." She is currently working on a profile of the Caribbean writer and one of the founders of the Caribbean Artists Movement, Andrew Salkey.



Sara Márquez Durst, Graduate Assistant

Sara Márquez Durst is pursuing an MA in English here at Rutgers-Newark. Her background is in Old English Literature and Japanese Folklore Studies, which she studied at Rutgers-NB. Sara is a published short story author and combines her academic and creative interests to explore identity, time, and place.

Esperanza Onoria Santos, Graduate Assistant

Esperanza Onoria Santos is a PhD student at Rutgers Newark where she received the Rutgers Presidential Graduate Fellowship. Her focus is Transgender Studies, Latinx Culture, transnationalism, and History. She is a former McNair Scholar and has a history of leadership and received awards such as the Sonoma County "Community Role Model Award" and the Rutgers Newark "LGBTQ+ Leadership Award." She worked with the Santa Rosa Trans Latinas as a facilitator and organized a Trans Rights March in 2019.





Arshy Hernandez, Social Media Associate

Arshy Hernandez has an AA in graphic design and a BFA in Graphic Design. She is experienced in visual communications, social media management, illustration, and motion graphics. As a Dominican native female, she merges a strong connection to her culture and traditions with vibrant and bright colors to create beautiful pieces with a critical approach to design. Hernandez has created designs for the Rutgers Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences Institute, NJSBDC State Office as a graphic design intern.

SPRING SCHEDULE

BLACK CITIZENSHIP WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8, 2023

THE PANDEMIC AND THE CITY WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12, 2023



PROGRAM DESIGNED BY ARSHY HERNANDEZ

SPECIAL THANKS TO SAYA WOOLFALK FOR PERMISSION TO USE HER ARTWORK ENCYCLOPEDIA OF CLOUD DIVISION (PLATE I) (2018)

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