



SAWYER SEMINAR AT RUTGERS NEWARK
**NATIVES AND NATIVISTS
MIGRANTS AND IMMIGRANTS
IN AN AMERICAN CITY**

RUTGERS
UNIVERSITY | NEWARK

SAWYER SEMINAR AT RUTGERS NEWARK
**NATIVES AND NATIVISTS
MIGRANTS AND IMMIGRANTS
IN AN AMERICAN CITY**
A CONVERSATION ABOUT WHO WE ARE AS A NATION

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 27

**POLITICS ACROSS BORDERS:
IMMIGRATION, NATIVISM,
ACTIVISM AND TRANS-BORDER
POLITICAL SENTIMENT**

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 Nativists, Migrants and Immigrants in an American City.”

The seminar series will be 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 will examine 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 by US nativism imagined in Philip Roth's *The Plot Against America*; to the Newark of an African American uprising and

white flight of the 1960s and 1970s; to today's Newark of diverse immigrant populations and fraught immigrant politics; to the always-on-the-cusp of gentrification Newark, imagined by developers to be “the next Brooklyn” there is 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”* will comprise 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.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 27

POLITICS ACROSS BORDERS: IMMIGRATION, NATIVISM, ACTIVISM AND TRANS-BORDER POLITICAL SENTIMENT

In the context of the scapegoating of immigrants and intensified nativism in US politics, it is often taken for granted by scholars and journalists that members of immigrant communities in the US would automatically reject such politics. However, many immigrants hold seemingly contradictory political positions, informed by multi-national political and economic trends that complicate this simple picture.

This seminar examines the complexity of political sentiment and action among some immigrant communities in the Newark area and beyond. It concludes with a roundtable involving panelists and progressive activists from Brazilian communities in the region.

SCHEDULE

THE GLOBAL RIGHT ACROSS BORDERS

10:00 AM - 11:30 AM

Audrey Truschke, Rutgers University, Newark
Vânia Penha-Lopes, Bloomfield College
Isabela Kaliil, University of São Paulo

IMMIGRANT COMMUNITIES AND GLOBAL POLITICS

1:00 pm - 2:30 pm

Prema Ann Kurien, Syracuse University
Gladys Mitchell-Walthour, North Carolina Central University
Meena Dhanda, University of Wolverhampton

ROUNDTABLE: TRANSNATIONAL SOLIDARITY POLITICS: REFLECTIONS BY ORGANIZERS

3:00 PM - 4:30 PM

Eduardo Vianna, City University of New York and organizer, formerly with Defend Democracy in Brazil and BRADO
Natalia de Campos, Performance artist and activist, Defend Democracy in Brazil Committee, NY
In conversation with the panelists
Moderator: Sean T. Mitchell, Rutgers University, Newark

MEET OUR PANELISTS

THE GLOBAL RIGHT ACROSS BORDERS



Audrey Truschke, Rutgers University, Newark

Audrey Truschke is Associate Professor of South Asian History at Rutgers University in Newark, New Jersey. She is the author of three books: *Culture of Encounters: Sanskrit at the Mughal Court* (2016), *Aurangzeb* (2017), and *The Language of History: Sanskrit Narratives of Indo-Muslim Rule* (2021). She is currently the recipient of a National Endowment for the Humanities Public Scholars grant to write her next book, a single volume history of India from the Indus Valley Civilization until the present day (under contract with Princeton University Press). When Audrey isn't writing about the Mughals, Sanskrit texts, or Hindu-Muslim interactions, she is often calling attention to abuses of history and human rights in contemporary South Asia. Her other frequent activities include condemning sexism and Islamophobia, reading, and spending time with her family.

Vânia Penha-Lopes, Bloomfield College

Vânia Penha-Lopes is Professor of Sociology at Bloomfield College, co-chair of the Brazil Seminar at Columbia University, a member of the Laboratório de Estudos Negros-LEN at Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro, a research fellow at the Washington-Brazil Office-WBO, and a former member of the executive committee of the Brazilian Studies Association-BRASA. A native of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Dr. Penha-Lopes graduated with honors from the Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro with a Bachelor's degree in Social Sciences (1982) and from New York University, with a Master's degree in Anthropology (1987) and a Ph.D. in Sociology (1999). She is the author of *The Presidential Elections of Trump and Bolsonaro, Whiteness, and the Nation* (2022), *Racismo Lá e Cá: 60 Crônicas* (2020), *Confronting Affirmative Action: University Quota Students and the Quest for Racial Justice* (2017), *Pioneiros: Cotistas na Universidade Brasileira* (2013), and co-editor of *Religiosidade e Performance: Diálogos Contemporâneos* (2015). On social media, she can be found at www.vaniapenhalopes.com, on Facebook (@vaniapenhalopes.phd), on Instagram (vaniapenhalopes_phd), and on YouTube, on her channel, Racismo Lá e Cá.



Isabela Kalil, University of São Paulo

Isabela Kalil has a PhD in anthropology from the University of São Paulo. She is a professor at the São Paulo School of Sociology and Political Science (FESPSP) and coordinator of the NEU—Center for Urban Ethnography at the same institution. Prior to joining FESPSP, she was a visiting scholar at Columbia University (New York City) in the Department of Anthropology.



IMMIGRANT COMMUNITIES AND GLOBAL POLITICS

Prema Ann Kurien, Syracuse University

Dr. Prema Kurien is Professor of Sociology at Syracuse University as well as the Director of the South Asian Center. She is a scholar of international migration, race, ethnicity, and religion. Dr. Kurien adopts a transnational approach in her work and has also done research in India, to show how a variety of global factors, including developments in the country of origin, play a profound role in shaping community structures, cultures, and activism profiles of immigrants and even the second generation. She is the author of three award-winning sole-authored books, *Kaleidoscopic Ethnicity: International Migration and the Reconstruction of Community Identities in India* (2002), *A Place at the Multicultural Table: The Development of an American Hinduism* (2007), and *Ethnic Church Meets Mega Church: Indian American Christianity in Motion* (2017). She has completed her next book *Claiming Citizenship: Race, Religion, and Belonging among New Ethnic Americans*. Her work has been recognized with a Contribution to the Field award (in Asian/Asian American Studies), three book awards, and three article awards and she has received postdoctoral fellowships and grants from a wide variety of sources.





Gladys Mitchell-Walthour, North Carolina Central University

Gladys Mitchell-Walthour is Dan Blue Endowed Chair of Political Science at North Carolina Central University. Mitchell-Walthour is the past president of the Brazil Studies Association (2018-2020) and the National Co-coordinator of the US Network for Democracy in Brazil (2019-2022). She is a Board Member of the Washington Brazil Office. She is the author of *The Politics of Blackness* (2018, Cambridge University Press). She co-edited the volume *Knowledge Production* (2016, Palgrave MacMillan) with Elizabeth Hordge-Freeman. She also co-edited the volume *Brazil's New Racial Politics* with Bernd Reiter (2010, Lynne Rienner Press). She is the recipient of numerous grants and fellowships including the Fulbright (2022), postdoctoral fellowships at Duke University and Johns Hopkins University, and was a Lemann Visiting Scholar at the David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies at Harvard University (2014). She holds a PhD in political science from the University of Chicago, MPP from the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor, and BA from Duke University.

Meena Dhanda, University of Wolverhampton

Dr. Meena Dhanda is Professor of Philosophy and Cultural Politics at the University of Wolverhampton. Born, brought up and educated in the Indian Punjab, she did her doctorate in philosophy at Oxford University as a Commonwealth Scholar. She is an advocate of socially engaged philosophy, and has conducted transdisciplinary research linking caste, class, race, and gender in projects funded by The Leverhulme Trust and the European Commission's EU Horizon2020 research programme. She is the author of *The Negotiation of Personal Identity*, editor of *Reservations for Women*, and special issues of journals *J-Caste and Religions*. She led a cross-disciplinary consortium of experts producing two research reports on 'Caste in Britain' (2014) for the Equality and Human Rights Commission, UK. Currently, she is a beneficiary of an EU Horizon2020 Innovative Training Network project FEINART (2021-24), supervising Early Stage Researchers working on socially engaged art, political philosophy, cultural theory and art practice. She is consolidating her recent published papers on: anti-casteism and misplaced nativism, philosophical foundations of anti-casteism, the power of counter-rituals, the simulation of caste-blindness, and the concurrence of anti-racism and anti-casteism, into a monograph.



ROUNDTABLE: TRANSNATIONAL SOLIDARITY POLITICS: REFLECTIONS BY ORGANIZERS



Eduardo Vianna, City University of New York and organizer, formerly with Defend Democracy in Brazil

Eduardo Vianna is a Professor at the City University of New York (CUNY) in the following programs: the psychology program at LaGuardia Community College and the developmental psychology and urban education Ph.D. programs at the Graduate Center. His research focuses on connecting teaching-learning and developmental processes in various settings that serve underprivileged and minoritized populations. Working from a Vygotskian perspective, especially the Transformative Activist Stance approach, he has carried out research on applying critical-theoretical pedagogy in a community college. This includes building a peer-based co-curricular program to connect affect and agency in learning. He is the lead editor for *Outlines: Critical Practice Studies* and has been directly involved with Brazilian activist groups in New York fighting for democracy and social justice, including developing popular education initiatives.

Natalia de Campos, Performance artist and activist, Defend Democracy in Brazil Committee, NY

Natalia de Campos is a multidisciplinary performance artist and producer, educator, writer, translator and activist from São Paulo, based in New York since 1998. A co-founder and co-director of the performance & political activist group Defend Democracy in Brazil Committee in New York since 2016, with whom she organized over 250 street actions, lectures, media actions and more. Natalia works in performance & theatre, interactive media, social practice, and street interactions, as a theater actor, director, and producer of solo or collaborative works under Syncretic Pleasures, ART&COM, and United Artists & Activists Union. She has presented her own work in venues around downtown NYC. Performed and toured to Brazil with The Living Theatre, performed in Mikhail Baryshnikov's White Oak at BAM, and others. She's a member of the Lincoln Center Theater Directors Lab; holds an M.F.A. in Performance & Interactive Media Arts (CUNY) B.A. in History from the University of São Paulo. Presented her research at the International Theater Conference in Santiago, Chile, and also lectured in multiple events at New York University following the election of Bolsonaro, at the USNDB annual meeting at the George Washington University in D.C., among others. As a coordinator and curator, she organized political education events about Brazil at CUNY, NACLA, NYU, The People's Forum, the LEFT Forum at LIU, Columbia University, GWU, and with the international network of Brazilian activists, FIBRA, among many others. Natalia currently teaches Portuguese and about Brazil's Social Movements at The People's Forum in New York. She is a member of the Executive and the Steering Committees of the U.S. Network for Democracy in Brazil. More info at syncreticpleasures.org & defenddemocracyinbrazil.org



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.

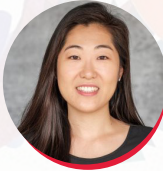


Sean T. Mitchell, Co-Principal Investigator and Moderator of Roundtable: Transnational Solidarity Politics: Reflections by Organizers

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 co-editor 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.



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.

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.



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.

FULL SCHEDULE

**RESPONDING TO
ANTI-ASIAN HATE:
POLITICS, ORGANIZING,
AND EDUCATION**
SEPTEMBER 28, 2022

**POLITICS ACROSS
BORDERS:
IMMIGRATION,
NATIVISM, ACTIVISM
AND TRANS-BORDER
POLITICAL SENTIMENT**
OCTOBER 27, 2022

**MIGRATION,
DISPLACEMENT,
AND THE ARTS**
NOVEMBER 16, 2022

BLACK CITIZENSHIP
MARCH 8, 2023

**PANDEMIC AND THE
CITY**
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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