

COLOR CROSSINGS: RACE, AFFECT, AESTHETICS



BROWN
Pembroke Center

FRIDAY & SATURDAY, APRIL 22-23, 2022

Pembroke Center for Teaching and Research on Women
Pembroke Hall 305, 172 Meeting Street, Providence, RI

BROWN UNIVERSITY

COLOR CROSSINGS

PEMBROKE CENTER RESEARCH ROUNDTABLE

This roundtable, led by Postdoctoral Fellows Erica Kanesaka, Bernabe Mendoza, and Allison Puglisi, and Visiting Assistant Professor of Gender Studies Maria De Simone, represents the culmination of the year-long Pembroke Center research seminar, "Color," convened by Professor Leslie Bostrom (Art) and Professor Evelyn Lincoln (Art History).

"Color Crossings: Race, Affect, Aesthetics" considers color's metaphorical, linguistic, philosophical, historical, perceptual, and practical resonances at the crossroads of critical race theory and color theory. In drawing together these distinct but overlapping discourses, we ask how global histories of race, gender, sex and class are connected to structures of knowledge and power that are ordered by color. To begin to answer these questions, we turn to the work of artists, writers and other creators of color and explore how their art engages color's aesthetic and affective affordances. We see color as a transgressive means of expression when employed by people of color, one with the potential to challenge the fixity of racial hierarchies and subvert hegemonic structures.

DAY 1

Friday, April 22, 5pm-7pm



KAREEM KHUBCHANDANI, TUFTS UNIVERSITY

KEYNOTE ARTIST/SCHOLAR TALK

The Auntology of the Senses: More Ways to be an Aunt

Kareem Khubchandani is the Mellon Bridge Assistant Professor in Theater, Dance, and Performance Studies, and Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies at Tufts University. He is the author of *Ishtyle: Accenting Gay Indian Nightlife* (University of Michigan Press, 2020), which received the 2021 Association for Theatre in Higher Education Outstanding Book award, the 2021 Dance Studies Association de la Torre Bueno book award, 2021 MLA/ASA Alan Bray Memorial Prize honorable mention, and the 2019 CLAGS: Center for LGBTQ Studies Fellowship. Khubchandani is also co-editor of *Queer Nightlife* (University of Michigan Press, 2021) and curator of criticalauntystudies.com

DAY 2

Saturday, April 23, 9.30am-4.15pm

EACH SATURDAY SESSION WILL FEATURE A SHORT PRESENTATION, A DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE PRESENTER AND MODERATOR, AND AMPLE TIME FOR Q&A.

9.30-10.00: BREAKFAST



TINA POST, UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

10.00-11.00

MODERATOR: MARIA DE SIMONE

On Blackness as Race and Hue

Tina Post is Assistant Professor of English and Theater and Performance at the University of Chicago, where she is also affiliated with the Center for the Study of Race, Politics, and Culture. Her first book project, *Deadpan: The Aesthetics of Black Inexpression*, is forthcoming from NYU Press in the Minoritarian Aesthetics Series. Her scholarly work has appeared in *Modern Drama*, *TDR: The Drama Review*, *International Review of African American Art*, and the edited collection *Race and Performance after Repetition* (Duke University Press, 2020).

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DAY 2

Saturday, April 23, 9.30am-4.15pm

11.00-11.15: BREAK



VANATTA FORD, WILLIAMS COLLEGE

11.15-12.15

MODERATOR: BERNABE MENDOZA

Color Coded: Analyzing Colorist Rhetoric in Hip Hop Music

VaNatta Ford is Assistant Professor of Africana Studies at Williams College. Ford's research focuses on the intersections of complexion, race and gender, rap and religion, and popular culture and social media. She is the co-editor of *Black Women and Popular Culture: The Conversation Continues* (2014), and is currently working on a book manuscript, *Tone DEF: Colorism and Gender Prescription in the Rhetoric of Rap Lyrics*. Extending her interests in religion and hip hop music, Ford is also co-editor of a special edition with *The Journal of Hip Hop Studies* titled "I Gotta Testify:" *Conversations on Kanye West, Religion & Hip-Hop*.

12.15-1.30: LUNCH BREAK



ANNA STORTI, DUKE UNIVERSITY

1.30-2.30

MODERATOR: ERICA KANESAKA

Aesthetic Motives: The Femme Alter Ego and Her Retribution

Anna Storti is Assistant Professor of Gender, Sexuality, and Feminist Studies at Duke University. An interdisciplinary scholar, Storti explores the aesthetic and affective relations between race, empire, violence, and pleasure, specializing in performance art across the Asian diaspora. You can find her writing in *Women & Performance: A Journal of Feminist Theory*, *Frontiers: A Journal of Women Studies*, forthcoming in *Feminist Studies*, *Asian Diasporic Visual Cultures and the Americas*, and elsewhere.

2.30-2.45: BREAK



TAO LEIGH GOFFE, CORNELL UNIVERSITY

2.45-3.45

MODERATOR: ALLISON PUGLISI

Choreography in the Dark

Tao Leigh Goffe is Assistant Professor of literary theory and cultural history at Cornell University. Her research and curatorial work are rooted in literatures and theories of labor that center Black feminist engagements with Indigeneity and Asian diasporic racial formations. Committed to building intellectual communities beyond institutions, she is the founder of the Dark Laboratory and the Executive Director of the Afro-Asia Group. Her writing has been published in *South Atlantic Quarterly*, *Small Axe*, *Women & Performance: A Journal of Feminist Theory*, and *Boston Review*.

3.45-4.15: DISCUSSION & CLOSING REMARKS

Since its founding in 1981, the Pembroke Center has sought to confront societal challenges across borders by interrogating the underpinnings and history of the categories used to differentiate individuals and groups—including gender, sexuality, race, ethnicity, religion, nationality, citizenship and class—and how those categories intersect. Together with a demand for knowledge by and about women, women-identified, gender non-binary and LGBTQIA+ individuals, this emphasis on rigorous, fruitful questioning paves the way for new insights into perennially vexing issues, like how to achieve reproductive justice, what ethical issues arise as new technology is deployed, or the possibilities of self-sovereignty for peoples contending with the long legacies of empire or slavery.

Cover Image: Lina Viktor, *Yaa Asantewaa*. Pure 24K Gold, Acrylic, Gouache, Print on Matte Canvas
40 x 52 in. / 101.6 x 132.08 cm

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