

Unsettling Approaches to Performance Studies

Fall 2014

Wright 220

Wednesdays, 9:00-12:00

Born out of concerns about departmental courses in relation to racialized modes of knowledge production, Unsettling Approaches to Performance Studies centralizes critical race approaches to Performance Studies. Some topics include **Afro-Pessimism, Black Optimism / Operations, Critical Whiteness Studies, Critical Indigeneity, Queer of Color Critique, Women of Color Feminism, Dance Studies, Post-Colonial Caribbean and / or Post-Colonial Black Atlantic**. For the fall 2014 session, duskin drum, Amanda Modell and DeNNiS SOmeRa will facilitate.

The study group is a collaborative space, where participants' research interests are foregrounded in the readings, discussions, and projects. The group works toward unpacking some of the ways in which race structures knowledge production and operates in often treacherous and seemingly invisible ways. This study group is more about questions- which ones are asked, how, why, and what they signify- than it is about methodological or content-based answers.

The Fall 2014 group includes an optional **practice-as-research lab** (details forthcoming).

Schedule (Subject to Change)

1. Grammar (10/8)

SPILLERS. CRITICAL THEORIST AND FEMINIST THEORIST...

Halberstam, Jack. "The Wild Beyond: With and For the Undercommons." In Harney, Stefano, and Fred Moten. *The Undercommons: Fugitive Planning & Black Study*. Autonomedia, 2013.

Wilderson, Frank III. "Grammar & Ghosts: The Performative Limits of African Freedom." *Theatre Survey* 50, no. 1 (2009): 119-25.

Spillers, Hortense. "Mama's Baby, Papa's Maybe: An American Grammar Book." *Diacritics: A Review of Contemporary Criticism* 17, no. 2 (1987): 65-81.

2. Structure 10/15 (October 14 Natalie Roberts visit)

Wynter, Sylvia. "Unsettling the Coloniality of Being Power Truth Freedom: Towards the Human, after Man, Its Overrepresentation-an Argument." *CR: The New Centennial Review* 3, no. 3 (2003): 257-337.

Smith, Andrea. "Heteropatriarchy and the Three Pillars of White Supremacy." In *Incite! Women of Color Against Violence. Color of Violence: The Incite! Anthology*. Cambridge Mass.: South End Press, 2006.

Lipsitz, George. "The Possessive Investment in Whiteness: Racialized Social Democracy and the 'white' Problem In..." *American Quarterly* 47, no. 3 (1995): 369.

"Introduction." Mullaney, Thomas S., et al. "Critical Han Studies: The History, Representation, and Identity of China's Majority." (2012).

<http://decolonization.wordpress.com/>

3. **Impossibility: 10/22 - bring opacity**

Muñoz, José. *Disidentifications: Queers of Color and the Performance of Politics*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1999.

Povinelli, Elizabeth. "Radical Worlds: The Anthropology of Incommensurability and Inconceivability." *Annual Review of Anthropology*, 2001.

Ahmed, Sara. "Declarations of Whiteness: The Non-Performativity of Anti-Racism." *borderlands: e-journal* 3 (2)." (2004).

"The General Antagonism: An Interview with Stevphen Shukaitus" Harney, Stefano, and Fred Moten. *The Undercommons: Fugitive Planning & Black Study*. Autonomedia, 2013.

Glissant, Edouard. *Poetics of Relation*. University of Michigan, 1997 (English); Gallimard, 1990 (French): selections.

4. **Pedagogy 10/29**

"The University and the Undercommons." Harney, Stefano, and Fred Moten. *The Undercommons: Fugitive Planning & Black Study*. Autonomedia, 2013

Tomlinson, Barbara and George Lipsitz. "Insubordinate Spaces for Intemperate Times: Countering the Pedagogies of Neoliberalism." *Review of Education, Pedagogy & Cultural Studies* 35, no. 1 (2013): 3–26.

O'Riley, Pat, and Peter Cole. "Coyote and Raven Put the 'Digital' in Technology – Hands up and Down to Earth." *Transnational Curriculum Inquiry* 9, no. 2 (n.d.): 18–34.

5. Citation 11/5

Moten, F. "Blackness and Nothingness (Mysticism in the Flesh)." *South Atlantic Quarterly* 112, no. 4 (2013): 737–80.

M. NourbeSe Philip reads "Discourse on the Logic of Language" from *She Tries Her Tongue*. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=424yF9eqBsE> -- reads from "Zong!" -- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=my4eE4denus>

Glissant, Édouard, Manthia Diawara, and Christopher Winks. "Édouard Glissant in Conversation with Manthia Diawara." *Nka: Journal of Contemporary African Art* 28.1 (2011): 4-19.

Hartman, Saidiya. "Prologue: Path of Strangers," "Come, Go Back Child" and "Lose Your Mother" in *Lose Your Mother : A Journey along the Atlantic Slave Route*. 1st ed. New York: Farrar Straus and Giroux, 2007.

Moten, Fred. *B Jenkins*. Durham: Duke University Press, 2010. (selections)

6. 11/12 Cutting Rainbow F(r)actions

Moraga, Cherríe, ed. *This bridge called my back: Writings by radical women of color*. Watertown, MA: Persephone Press, 1981.

Smith, Andrea. "QUEER THEORY AND NATIVE STUDIES The Heteronormativity of Settler Colonialism." *GLQ: A Journal of Lesbian and Gay Studies* 16.1-2 (2010): 41-68.

Wilderson III, Frank. "Gramsci's black marx: Whither the slave in civil society?." *Social Identities* 9.2 (2003): 225-240.

7. Improvisation 11/19

Moten, Fred. "Introduction" from *In the Break: The Aesthetics of the Black Radical Tradition*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2003.

Fusco, Coco. "The Other History of Intercultural Performance." *TDR: The Drama Review* 38, no. 1 (1994): 143.

Manning, Susan. "Introduction" and "Chapter 1" from *Modern Dance, Negro Dance: Race in Motion*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2004.

8. Refusal 11/26 (maybe here the native stuff in (dis)honor) -

(sunrise ceremony on Alcatraz)

We need to add more here.... how about another chapter of undercommons?

Coulthard, Glen. "Place against empire: Understanding Indigenous anti-colonialism." *Affinities: A Journal of Radical Theory, Culture, and Action* 4.2 (2010).

Smith, Andrea. "Against the Law: Indigenous Feminism and the Nation-State." *Affinities: A Journal of Radical Theory, Culture, and Action* 5.1 (2011).

Poet and activist Chrystos speaks at the 23rd Conference on LGBT Equality: Creating Change <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vZcLj-caeOE>

9. Psychology/Psychoanalysis/Feeling

Moten, Fred. "The Case of Blackness." *Criticism: A Quarterly for Literature and the Arts* 50, no. 2 (2008): 177-218.

Spillers, Hortense. "Mama's Baby, Papa's Maybe: An American Grammar Book." *Diacritics: A Review of Contemporary Criticism* 17, no. 2 (1987): 65-81.

"Whatcha Gonna Do?": Revisiting "Mama's Baby, Papa's Maybe: An American Grammar Book": A Conversation with Hortense Spillers, Saidiya Hartman, Farah Jasmine Griffin,

Shelly Eversley and Jennifer L. Morgan." Women's Studies Quarterly, Vol. 35, No. 1/2, The Sexual Body (Spring - Summer, 2007), pp. 299-309

Fanon, Frantz. "The Fact of Blackness" in *Black Skin, White Masks*. New York: Grove Weidenfeld, 1991.

Cheng, Anne. *The Melancholy of Race*. Oxford [England]; New York: Oxford University Press, 2001. (Selection)

10. 12/10 Institutionalization

Ferguson, Roderick. Introduction, "Affirmative Actions of Power" and Chapter 1, "The Birth of the Interdisciplines." *The Reorder of Things : The University and Its Pedagogies of Minority Difference*, 2012.

Noriega, Chon. "On Museum Row : Aesthetics and the Politics of Exhibition." *America's Museums Maxwell L. Anderson, Willard L. Boyd ...*, 1999.

Min, Susette. "As the World Turns: Spinning the Idea of the University as We Know It." *Social Text*, May 13, 2014.
<http://socialtextjournal.org/spinning-the-idea-of-the-university/>.

Coulthard, Glen S. "Subjects of empire: Indigenous peoples and the 'politics of recognition' in Canada." *Contemporary Political Theory* 6.4 (2007): 437-460.

Ahmed, Sara. "The nonperformativity of antiracism." *Meridians: feminism, race, transnationalism* 7.1 (2007): 104-126.