Globalization, Race, and the New Nationalism Conference Abstracts

Adams, Francis, Ideas, Institutions, and the Construction of Foreign Aid Policy

Soon after assuming the presidency, Barack Obama proposed fundamental reforms to US foreign assistance policy. Greater attention would be placed on the quality of governance exhibited by recipient countries and aid would also be restructured to enhance local control, capacity development, and sustainability. This presentation considers why these reforms were adopted. Particular focus is placed on the work of the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). In the first decade of the 21st century the DAC played an instrumental role in developing and promoting a series of normative changes to enhance “aid effectiveness.” The reforms adopted in the early years of the Obama Administration can only be fully understood within the context of evolving international norms on overseas development assistance.

Al Ghamdi, Sameha, How the Rise of an International Cosmopolitan Elite Fueled Reactionary Racism

The current upsurge in nationalistic rhetoric and political parties is a reactionary response to the unequal distribution of the benefits of internationalism. Movements towards internationalization has largely accrued benefits to a cosmopolitan elite; those with the education, skills, resources and connections to thrive in a global environment. The white working class in western countries has long held a position of relative power and prosperity in the global order. International trade has led to increased competition abroad while mass migration has led to increased competition domestically. Underlying racist tendencies within western societies were traditionally satiated through mechanisms which included both the tangible (i.e. traditional imperial and colonial rule) and intangible (i.e. sense of superiority from living in a “first world” country). The loss of these mechanism as fueled the modern resurgence of nationalism, racism, and partisan politics.

Alibeli, Madalla A. and Majed A. Alibeli, New Nationalism in the Arab World: The Case of Jordan

This presentation aims at examining nationalism in the Arab world from a historical descriptive perspective. It sheds light on the way Arab nationalism developed, grew, and faded away using Jordan as a case study. The sense of Arab nationalism was almost absent from the Arab historical experience until the end of 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century when new Arab nationalist movement clashed with the Ottoman Empire forces due to its Turkification policies in the Arab world. Such clash did end in driving the Ottoman forces out of the Arab world after centuries of Turkish rule.

Alnasseri, Sabah, The Spirits that I Called: Donald Trump and the Populist Age

What we are witnessing today is the impasse of the cumulative populist politics of the past three neoliberal decades, which is now to be addressed by extremely right-wing populist governments. In other words, populism has not only been the dominant political form since the 90s, populism is the reason why there is a crisis in the first place. Fascist, apocalyptic world-scenarios of racism and xenophobia, militarism, economic nationalism, environmental denialism, religious fundamentalism, state interventionism to the advantage of capital, and bread crumbs for workers and working poor are indicators of something in the making that cannot be conceived in the same old categories. Populism and fascism are to be rethought in the face of the current situation.

Artz, Lee, Transnational Media Partnerships: Global Political Economy and the Inter-nationalist Ideology of Popular Culture

Going beyond recent scholarship on global media that reiterates nation-state identifiers, this research focuses on the transnational relations among semi-major global media producers and distributors. This work reports on the transnational alliances and the manifest ideological content of three primary participants in the developing transnational media structures: 1) Dalian Wanda (the Chinese-based owner of AMC, the largest cinema chain in the US and Legendary Pictures, a leading international film producer), 2) Reliance Media (the Indian-based partner in DreamWorks, and major producer of multicultural and multilingual television and film across Asia and the Mideast), and 3) Europa Films (a French-based, cross-European partnership known for the global film franchise, Taken, and other English language mass market films). The findings illustrate the complexities of transnational capitalist relations in media and culture industries along with the parallel ideological narratives of individualism, authority, and hierarchy.
Bakker, Matt, Frames in the Struggle against Detention and Deportation

Here I focus on competing frames within contemporary migrants’ rights struggles. I analyze important distinctions in the rights claims put forward in campaigns across the US to limit local government collaboration with the federal detention and deportation machinery. Drawing upon various social and spatial theorists, I examine a range of rights claims, from legalistic claims about the (un)constitutionality of state practices to moral/political claims to rights based on territorial presence. Through this analysis, I identify the strengths and limitations of these various rights claims in hopes to strengthening local resistance to deportation and other xenophobic state practices.

Berruecos, Luis, Neighbors and Walls: Politics in Mexico Today

As has been happening unfortunately in many countries, thanks to external pressures from powerful nations, the Latin American panorama looks hopeless. Many nations have turned to the right and in Mexico, despite the terrible experiences of the years 2000 and 2006, the old hegemonic party wants to retain power at all costs. In a few days, the first of July, things must change radically if it is true that statistics and forecasts are indeed true. If so, surely the motto of "together we will make history" will be an absolute truth. Mexico faces the powerful empire but with the great mimetic support of the long-oppressed people. In this presentation, we will briefly analyze—shortly before this event—the current electoral situation in advance of what is likely to happen.

Blain, Bob, Government Spending and National Wealth

Evidence for 220 countries in 2008 shows that government spending is the most important variable affecting national well-being. The second, third, and fourth most important variables are access to water and sanitation, electricity, and fertility. These three are where government spending can do the most good as measured by life expectancy and Gross Domestic Product per capita.

Blumberg, Rae Lesser, Gender in Gangland: Justice vs. Livelihood in Central America

Violence in Central America’s Northern Triangle is notorious. Recent research in Honduras revealed that over 50% of women’s domestic violence complaints filed are withdrawn. Female labor force participation is low so alternatives are returning to an abuser furious she denounced him – and a revenge beating – or prostitution. Providing such women means of supporting her children and herself might also promote justice. I found women’s groups that not only provide members to accompany battered women in their interactions with police and courts, but also link them to Solidarity Group microcredit. This could help them gain livelihoods while pursuing justice. I link these findings to my theories of gender stratification and gender and development, and propose that this economic approach could curb violence against women while improving both well-being and justice.

Boyd, Da’Von Anthony, Rethinking the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

W.E.B. DuBois famously wrote that the “problem of the twentieth century is the problem of the color line—the relation of the darker to the lighter races of men in Asia and Africa, in America and the islands of the sea.” Given this reality, it is both unsurprising yet jarring that the UN Declaration of Human Rights does not diligently address the "problem of the color line". Why was race not addressed well in the discourses leading to the implementation of the declaration, even when its beginnings were seemingly concurrent with people of color trying to claim liberties and rights worldwide? More importantly, what are the normative implications of this near erasure from rights discourses, especially when considering political bodies of people of color have accepted the UDHR as both morally and politically legitimate? My presentation seeks to answer these fundamental questions.

Brabec, Martin, Race, Class, and Value-Neutrality of State

First I address, on conceptual, descriptive, and explanatory levels, class distinctions and race relations. Some contemporary theories treat these two forms oppression symmetrically. But detailed analysis shows that the social relations within them have very different dynamics – in the case of race relations there may be non-exploitative oppression, whereas in the case of class relations there is exploitation. Second, I look at the problem on a normative level, addressing the state’s treatment of different social groups. In contemporary multicultural societies, racial groups and other minority groups make claims against the state for implementing state policy toward them in discriminatory ways. What reason might be given for a state to accept these groups’ claims and rights and promote certain conceptions of good life specific to these groups or to apply the same treatment toward all groups?
**Brandon, LaVada Taylor**, Caste Othered: Colonization and the Global Frontier

In this presentation I look deeply into the role of neo-colonialism in the lives of African and Africana people. Specifically, tracing global history, the construction of race, and the dominance of capitalism in constructing "Blackened Bodies" through polarization: black/white; boy/girl; rich/poor; them/us. In so doing we grapple with the necessity of "othering" in an effort to deconstruct notions of race to unravel binary constants that enable the persistent primacy of race, racism and subjugation to exist in the global context.

**Brewer, Rose**, Black Movement Formation: Race, Class, Gender, Capitalist Globalization, and White Nationalism Today

The arc of the Black Freedom struggle in the US signals the early 21st century as a period of high contention, resistance, and possibility. It is also rife with contradictions. The radicalism which informs Black liberation struggle today is complex, disparate, and signals the need to rearticulate social transformation given Black resistance in the era of new nationalism. The struggle is theorized in this analysis in the context of racial capitalism, changing organizational forms, state violence, and nonlinear, disparate contentions around the police. Understanding white supremacist nationalism in the US today is core to this discussion. Ultimately, Black lives in this new movement moment struggle for broadly but notably to a shift which places gender, gender nonconforming, and sexuality at the center of the resistance and our understanding of Black movement formation in the US and globally. The global tropes of the new nationalism found in South Africa and Britain extend the discussion beyond the US case.

**Cárdenas-García, Jaime F.**, Bruno Soria de Mesa, and Diego Romero Castro, The Information Process and the Labour Process in the Information Age

We examine how information fundamentally influences the labour process in the information age. The process of becoming human in the labour process brings to the fore the notion of information and our dialectical interactions with our natural environment as organisms-in-the-environment. These insights led the authors to posit that information/ideas are material. Information/ideas are not ethereal/immaterial, as is commonly believed, which does not negate that information/ideas may be abstract. Taking a fundamental approach serves to discard the concept of immaterial labour and products to posit an undeniable materialist basis for the labour theory of value. More importantly, it serves to point to the immanence of information and labour in the labour theory of value.

**Chacon, Oscar**, Globalization and the Rise of White Nationalism

My talk will cover transnational economic/racial justice perspective informed by my long experience working on the Central America-Mexico-US corridor. Now more than ever it is crucial to deepen our understanding on how deeply connected these countries and the rest of the world have become. The global ruling class have driven this process all along, have taken full advantage of it, while many local actors, mostly related to working people, keep longing for a long-gone-past of isolated nation states, which no longer are. Nationalistic movements, particularly White Nationalism, are indeed the most recent form of deceit and manipulation intended to keep those with common interests divided alongside border and xenophobic tendencies.

**Chaplin, Kenneth Sean**, Race, New/Neo-Nationalism, and Globalization in US North American Sports: Right-Wing Student-Fans’ Responses to the NFL Players’ National Anthem Protests

The intersection of race, new/neo-nationalism, and globalization in US North American sport is explored. Specifically, a study of right-wing student-fans’ responses to the NFL Player’s National Anthem Protests is examined. Symbolic Interactionism and cultural studies are used as theoretical and methodological frameworks; 2 focus groups and 32 in-depth interviews were conducted from which the datum is obtained. The findings show discussions of race and racism is avoided and neglected, and conservative exclusive moral senses of patriotism invoked. Support and assumptions about the state and corporation’s rights to sanction, along with the ostracization and exclusion of protesters from local and national U.S. markets is also induced as solutions to protests. While student-fans held belief about the freedoms and rights to protest, in practice their beliefs faded due to new/neo-nationalist dispositions manifest in their adherence for corporate control over global markets.

**Chetty, Ayesha Casie**, Redneck Rap: Globalization and Musical Fusion

Music, both consumption and performance of, has been demonstrated to be a vital way of expressing one’s identity, both as part of a social group as well as individually. In this presentation I examine the genre of redneck rap, which is a fusion of two vastly different genres, country and hip hop, and seek to discover how this fits into the narrative. Using a framework of Stoever's concept of the sonic-colour line coupled with dramaturgy in the broader context of how globalisation has resulted in the fusion of musical styles, I analyze the lyrics, music, and visuals of a selection of songs from this genre.
Chew Sánchez, Martha I., Canadian Mining Companies in Mexico: The Question of Accountability for Human Rights Violations

The aim of this presentation is to describe the social, economic, and political situation of some indigenous communities whose human rights have been violated by the expansion of large-scale extractive and infrastructure projects in their territories by Canadian mining companies. I focus on the complex role of mining companies in the War on Drugs that has been targeting indigenous communities in order to neutralize social activism that claims sovereignty over the indigenous lands taken by mining companies.

Choi, Wai Kit, National Independence in the Time of Surveillance Capitalism: An East Asian Case

Scholars and pundits continue to discuss the issue of Hong Kong's right to self-determination under Chinese rule even after the Umbrella Movement has ended. The one perspective that frames the conflicts between Hong Kong and China in nationalist terms has attracted much attention in particular. The city's inability to implement direct election, and its various social and economic problems are seen, from this nationalist perspective, as linked to China's intervention in Hong Kong's internal affairs, and political independence from China is offered as a remedy. I will examine this nationalist thesis from the standpoint of a decolonized critical theory of Hong Kong and question the effectiveness of nationhood as a vehicle of liberation from Chinese state control.

Daigle, Amelie, Bound by Blood and Trauma: Community in Yaa Gyasi's Homegoing

Yaa Gyasi’s Homegoing follows the bloodlines of two half-sisters: Effia, who marries a British slaver, and Esi, who is enslaved and sent to America. The two family branches remain unaware of their connection throughout the novel, with no way to recover the narrative of when they separated or how they are related. I argue that the imaginative connection Gyasi draws between two fictional bloodlines has global implications: Homegoing models how we can imagine community between disparate members of the African diaspora, placing the work in conversation with négritude and other conceptual frameworks that propose a global African diasporic identity.

Dworkin, Mark and Melissa Young, Carol Miller, and Brian Cullin, PLANE TRUTHS: Are US Communities Becoming Collateral Damage?

Expanded military budgets and increased activities at bases across the US are challenging health, safety, and quality of life. PLANE TRUTHS, a new documentary by independent filmmakers Mark Dworkin and Melissa Young, examines the community impacts of US Navy expansion in northwest Washington State and the people who are speaking out. This just-released 32-minute film explores a variety of perspectives from farmers, current and retired military personnel, environmentalists and other citizens of the affected areas. Issues include jet noise, water pollution, and the effects on wildlife and visitors in State and National parks.

Dyett, Jordan and Cassidy Thomas, Unraveling Environmentalism: Racism, Patriarchy, and the Discourse of Overpopulation

We conduct a Critical Discourse Analysis concerning the racist and sexist undertones present within overpopulation rhetoric in relation to climate change. This research analyzes literature and media from environmentalist organizations that frames overpopulation, often in the context of women of color living in the global south having children, as the key driver of climate change. Employing a critical ecofeminist lens, we debunk this repertoire and argue that it’s an all-too-common tool of deflection and scapegoating that white environmentalism employs in order to ignore the historical power relations that maintain the over-consumptive and extractivist society that they enjoy.

Elmoudden, Sanae, How Islamic Women Negotiate their Identity in America

Post-Trump election has propelled the opening of global dialogue on race, religion, and nationalism. It specifically urged Americans who hid behind colorblindness or whiteness prior to have “the talk” about race. In the midst of this conversation, it is important to address how women of Muslim origins negotiate their identities in transnational spaces. On one hand, current events show Islamophobia in the forefront of our government, yet the face of a veiled woman with an American flag head scarf has become not only the face of Islam, but also the face of American women marches. Based on longitudinal qualitative interviews and an intersectionality framework analysis, I explore how women of Islamic Moroccan origins negotiate their identities in America today.
Esposito, Luigi, The Role of Neoliberalism and Political Correctness in the Revitalization of White Nationalism: The Rise of the Alt-Right

In this presentation I address the role that neoliberalism and political correctness have played in the recent revitalization of white nationalism in the US, particularly as expressed by the Alt-Right. Two central points are made. First, white nationalism is predicated on a racial tribalism that is oppositional to the atomism and color-blindness encouraged by neoliberalism. Second, the challenge to white identitarianism by neoliberal globalization is compounded by an ideology of political correctness that, although at odds with neoliberalism, has presumably further disempowered whites. The point is made that despite their tensions both neoliberalism and political correctness contribute to the mantra of “white victimhood” that the Alt-Right employs to legitimize their white nationalist political agenda.

Ezeonu, Ifeanyi, Market Criminology: A Critique of the Political Economy of Predation in the Nigerian Petroleum Extraction Industry

For centuries, what is known today as Nigeria has existed as a commercial theatre and estate of Western merchants and transnational corporations. Starting with trade in human commodities (i.e., the slave trade) and the subsequent colonial plunder, this predatory venture has continued with the pernicious extraction of petroleum resources in its Niger Delta region in contemporary times; albeit aided this time by the country’s domestic comprador. The effects of this predatory political economy manifest in degraded environment, high mortality rate, human rights abuses and an expansive ecology of poverty for the local population. Using a nascent justice-oriented theoretical heterodoxy conceptualized as Market Criminology I discuss the political economy of predation in the Nigerian petroleum extraction industry, along the lines of a growing body of literature which conceptualizes preventable market-generated harms as criminal.

Fabricant, Nicole, Over-Burdened Bodies and Lands: Industrial Development and Environmental Injustice in South Baltimore

I take Rob Nixon’s conception of slow violence as a way of framing environmental and bodily violence of industrial capitalism in Curtis Bay (South Baltimore). According to Nixon, it is a violence that occurs gradually and out of sight, a violence of delayed destruction that is dispersed across time and space. This framework requires us to complicate conventional assumptions about violence as highly visible, time- and body-bound. The very idea of slow violence is that it is not immediate, but rather plays out across a range of temporal scales. How can we use Baltimore’s long history of industrial development to think about the residual effect upon bodies, communities, and the environment? It makes environmental justice central to understanding economic history posing the question: who pays the price for industrial Baltimore’s externalities?

Fletcher, Jr., Bill, Race, US Capitalism, and Right-Wing Populism: The Illness within the Illness within the Illness

Race and racism were constructed in the context of the development of capitalism. While it would be reductionist to take an instrumental approach to the connection between the two, history has demonstrated that race, which has no scientific/biological basis, was constructed politically and socially as a means of enlisting mass support for the wholesale oppression of specific populations as well as a means of ensuring social control over the laboring classes. This presentation will focus on the historical roots of right-wing populism in the construction of the US as a racial settler state. It will then turn to understanding right-wing populism as a dangerously radical challenge to democratic capitalism in the name of challenging neo-liberal globalization. I end with recommendations on directions that progressive movements should consider in opposing right-wing populism in its variants, including, but not limited to, challenging neo-fascism.

Fusaro, Lorenzo, The Gramascian Moment in International Political Economy?

I argue that Gramsci’s thought and concepts can be usefully applied to the analysis of contemporary issues that have interested and raised concern within public opinion. Hence the author’s concept of “organic crisis” might be illuminating when searching for explanations for the election of Trump or the Brexit vote. However, far more problematic is the deployment of Gramsci’s thought when attempting to understand further crucial trends that characterise the contemporary international political economy. I refer to the return to nationalism and increasing geopolitical rivalries that scarcely fit with the idea of a transnational ruling class usually associated with Gramsci. I will critically question such neo-Gramscian readings of Gramsci and contend that in his analysis of international relations within the capitalist world economy, national states and geopolitical competition between them remain fundamental.
Ganis, Alberto, Cosmopolitanism and Nationalism in Udine, Italy

This study offers a look into how inhabitants of a small town make sense of the global through their daily interactions with their environment, and which preexisting discourses are used to talk about it. The research employs in-depth interviews to gather the data, with the goal of revealing the situated meanings of the locals. The interviewees live in the Italian town of Udine, the epicenter of the region of Friuli that offers an interesting cultural context determined by the presence of global, national, and local cultural identities. The respondents talk about the global borrowing from discourses of nationalism and cosmopolitanism, as well as in terms of homogenization, heterogenization, and hybridization (Glocal). These discourses structure three main articulations that seem to lead the understanding of the global: difference in the people, the food culture and ethnic restaurants, and the commercial entities that represent multinational flows of goods.

Garrido Gómez, M. Isabel, Legal Norms and the Racial Diversity

We live in a world that moves towards a heterogeneous pluralism that must be harmonized as an expression of globalization. The migratory movements and the resurgence of nationalisms make the situation become more complex, with certain consequences in sovereignty’s traditional concept, in Law’s production sources, and in the creation of new jurisdictional bodies. Thus, legal norms should recognize and approve the racial diversity, assuming and appreciating them in a positive way, with the limit of respect to their inherent human dignity and inviolable rights. The most correct thing is that the social integration of the difference is to be carried out by means of its recognition and acceptance as legal-political principle. The open society implies a constant opening to the change, allowing the comparison with other ways of acting or thinking that can enrich and improve ours.


It is imperative to consider the socioeconomic status of the athletes who elect to participate in demonstrations that publicly respond to police brutality, social unrest, or social inequality. The vast majority of black athletes who enter the NFL and NBA come from low-income households and social classes. After receiving a contract their socioeconomic status may improve to some degree, but this change is largely contingent upon business decisions that are outside of their control (e.g. trades, team cuts, etc.). This study aims to explore the correlation between athletes’ public forms of protest and their assumed financial security.

Gow, Jamella N., Immigration and Racialized Identities

Race has increasingly become the modality through which globalized class is lived. Whether one is a migrant, refugee, or guest-worker, one’s inclusion into receiving a nation-state is mediated increasingly through racialized difference. Using Haitian and Jamaican migrants’ varying experiences of inclusion and exclusion in the US as case studies, I argue that whether one is considered Black or foreign migrant is mediated by an increasingly globalized hierarchy based on multiple histories of colonialism and global political economic restructuring. These histories have not only shaped patterns of migration in the Caribbean, but also black Caribbean migrants’ racialization in the US.

Grupper, Ira, Valeria Sinclair Chapman, Harry Targ, and Carl Davidson, On Multi-Racial/Multi-National Unity: Theory and Practice

This panel will address the centrality of the struggle against racism for building left unity and the progressive majority. It will describe the historic debates, struggles, and contradictions in building mass movements in the midst of historic contexts of white supremacy, extermination of native peoples, and marginalization of virtually all people of color. And it will address contemporary social movements such as Black Lives Matter, other ‘Next Left’ formations, and the New Poor Peoples Campaign.

Gunderson, Christopher, The Ideological Crisis of Neo-Liberalism and the Resurgence of White Supremacy in the Obama Era

The 2008 election of Barack Obama which had been heralded as the arrival of a “post-racial America” was instead followed by a resurgence of organized explicitly white supremacist political activity, culminating in the 2016 election of Donald Trump running on open appeals to white racism. This paper explores the relationship between this resurgence and what it characterizes as “the ideological crisis of neo-liberalism” produced in the wake of the 2008 financial crisis. Drawing on Poulantzas’s study of fascism, it argues that Trump’s election only becomes intelligible if understood as a response to the contradictions, brought forward by the financial crisis, between the multicultural neoliberalism represented by Obama and the structural demands of racial capitalism.
Gutierrez, Julia, Struggling in the US is the Same as in Mexico!: Globalizing the Feminization of Poverty through Mexican Migrant Women’s Experiences

Brady and Burton (2016) mentioned that the literature about poverty on developed nations, rarely engages with the study of poverty on developing countries. Borrowing from Sassen’s (2000) work on centering globalization as a strategic site, to investigate the exploitation of gender dynamics sustaining a global economy, I suggest centering Mexican migrant women’s experiences to explore poverty as a strategic site. Mexican migrant women’s perceptions and experiences living in poverty can highlight any socioeconomical global connections that create and sustain poverty in Mexico and in United States. This project applies both surveys and semi-structured interviews in the Little Village/La Villita neighborhood in Chicago.

Haider, Maheen, The Racialization of the Muslim Body and Space in Hollywood

I discuss how visual portrayals of Muslims in the context of the War on Terror are racializing the Muslim body and the Islamic ideology. Using both content and visual analysis of 11 high grossing Hollywood films post-9/11 on terrorism and the Middle East, I argue that these representations embody a racialization process that demonizes the religious and physical identity of Muslims and Arabs as jihadists within the realm of War on Terror. These racial portrayals perpetuate the stereotype of Muslims and Arabs as terrorists, while stripping away the diversity and complexity of the group. I demonstrates how visual illustrations of Muslims and Arabs in Hollywood films are not limited to ethnic othering and racial stereotyping, but are part of a racialization process that criminalize their identity, dehumanize their body and devalue their territorial/physical space in the light of the War on Terror.

Harris, Jerry, The Unlikely Rise of the Chinese Transnational Capitalist Class to Global Leadership

China’s statist transnational capitalist class (TCC) has grown politically and economically stronger. They have seized leadership of alternative energy technology and production, and their launching of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank has attracted finance capital from around the world. Moreover, their One Belt One Road strategy for economic development is the most inclusive and expansive vision for global capitalism. Meanwhile the European TCC fraction has nothing new to offer except hopes for global stability, while US globalists struggle with the erratic nationalism of Trump. Ironic as it seems, the fate of global capitalism may lie in the hands of the Chinese Communist Party.

Harris, Jerry, Race and Class at US Steel – Chicago

Abstract Not Available

Hickel, Jr., Flavio, American Identity and Ethnocentrism in the Age of Trump

The belief/myth that the US was a nation of immigrants with equal opportunity for all has historically served as the foundation for American Exceptionalism and Ethnocentrism. However, growing anxiety about political, economic, and social turmoil (both domestic and foreign), along with increasingly sophisticated White Nationalist messaging, has strained this relationship. My analysis of the 2016 ANES reveals that racism, fear of terrorism, and concern about the economic and social consequences of immigration have led to more restrictive notions of who is a “True American”; and that these factors in turn lead to elevated levels of ethnocentrism.

Hock, Lisabeth, Radical Difference and Allyship in Yoko Tawada’s Memoirs of a Polar Bear

Yoko Tawada’s 2014 novel, Etudien im Schnee, translated in 2016 by Susan Bernofsky as Memoirs of a Polar Bear, offers a narrative of globalization that challenges 21st-century racism and nationalism by making a case for radical otherness and allyship. Memoirs is the story of three generations of polar bears as told from their perspective. Removed from their arctic home to perform in circuses and then in zoos, they serve as allegories for the both the stateless migrant and the racial other. Without roots they do not and cannot fetishize national and racial identity, and they can see through the self-delusion of those whose sense of superiority is based in their sense of origin. Forced to conform, at least in their physical actions, to the situation in which they find themselves, their very difference is what allows them to learn to say “I” and tell their own stories.

Hrubec, Marek, Risks of Limited Nuclear War: The Consequences of New Nationalism and Racism

I address the contemporary risks of limited nuclear war, explaining the problems linked to the new US strategic documents pursuing limited nuclear war, in relation to conflicts of political, corporate, and technical military interests of the transnational capitalist class. I also analyze the preconditions of the current situation, i.e. the trajectory concerning the strategies of possible nuclear war, and the possible subjects of this kind of threat. There is an ideological context in which the conflicts of interests take place. The nationalist and racist (white supremacist) ideology supporting the current administration seems to pursue white people to be dominant over other races. This ideological approach in the public sphere makes some groups of people easier targets of military attacks in various nation-states than other ones. It helps legitimizing the mentioned conflicts of interest, and gives rise the contemporary globalising atmosphere of fear.
Jean, Cassandra, The Faulty Band-Aid: How Democracy Fell Short in Haiti
This research aims to explain how and why Haiti’s attempt to emulate the American democratic system failed during President Jean-Bertrand Aristide’s regime between 1991 and 2004. Since the democratic process was imposed by foreign hegemonies on a country with little to no experience, President Aristide regressed to the historical norms of authoritarianism and violations that previously plagued Haiti. Alongside his hierarchy of strongmen, Aristides actions resulted in corruption, which negatively impacted the Haitian people. I employ a descriptive case study to examine the correlation between the human rights violations that occurred under Aristide’s regime, Haiti’s attempt at American democracy, and Haiti’s history of economic dependencies. The findings suggest that the democratic system was an unsuccessful mechanism to modernize a developing country and that the strategy was akin to using a Band-Aid for a broken leg.

Johnson, Krista, Race and Nation in Transnational Perspective: Revisiting the Howard School of International Relations (IR) Theory
I engage with the contemporary postcolonial IR literature and its precursor, a group of Howard University scholars writing in the 1930s through 1960s, including Merze Tate, Eric Williams, Ralph Bunche, Alain Locke and Rayford Logan. These literatures understand race, not as a signifier of physiological differences, but rather a powerful set of ideas or norms about the identity, difference and organization of a society and its constituents. Drawing in particular on the work of Merze Tate in the Pacific Region, I shine light on the ways in which race, racial ideas, and thinking are transferred between the domestic and international realms, often with the aid of transnational movements and actors.

Kallman, Meghan, I Wasn’t a Woman, but I Wasn’t a Man: An Intersectional Analysis of Development Workers
I use intersectional framework to consider how gender, race, and nationality play out for American women abroad working in international development. Using the case of the US Peace Corps—an historically highly gendered institution—I argue that women Peace Corps volunteers’ experience of themselves abroad is neither structural nor agentic but rather relational, and I explore what that means for both women of color and for white women. Drawing on an extensive qualitative dataset and field site visits, I find that that race and, to a lesser extent nationality, are tremendously salient in women’s experience of gender in a transnational development context. My findings have important implications for organizational culture, program goals and delivery, volunteer effectiveness and future support, as well as informing theories of gender. Additionally, they are critical to understanding and improving how development services are rendered.

Katz-Fishman, Walda, Rose Brewer, Jerome Scott, Britany Gatewood, Anthony Jackson, and Ralph Gomes, Consciousness, Vision & Strategy: A Movement School for Revolutionaries: Radical scholars & proletarian intellectuals doing the intellectual work of the movement
This 2-consecutive session panel focus is consciousness, vision, and strategy within the revolutionary process today grounded in the theory and practice of historical materialism. We are radical scholars and proletarian intellectuals with history in transformative movements historically and in the current political moment, collectively doing political education, building unity between the academy and the street through praxis. We open with a brief panel about our experience in doing the intellectual work of the movement across time, place, and space. We move into an interactive mini version of the “consciousness, vision & strategy” movement school for revolutionaries. We’ll concentrate on #3 – the crisis of global capitalism in the age of electronics, robotics, AI and globalization, resurgence of white supremacy, and motion toward fascism; and movement vision and strategy in the epoch of social revolution.

Kimbrell, Andrew, A Dangerous Idea: Eugenics, Genetics, and the American Dream
There is a dangerous idea that has threatened the America Dream from the very beginning. It is a strong current of biological determinism which views some groups, races and individuals as inherently superior to others and more deserving of fundamental rights. Despite the founders’ assertion that “all are created equal” this idea was used to justify disenfranchising women, blacks, and Native Americans from the earliest days of the Republic. This film reveals how this dangerous idea gained new traction in the 20th century with an increasing belief in the concept of an all-powerful “gene” that predetermines who is worthy and who is not. It reveals how this new genetic determinism provided an abhorrent rationale for state sanctioned crimes committed against America’s poorest, most vulnerable citizens and for violations of the fundamental civil rights of untold millions.
Kohler, Kristopher, The Dance of the Dragon and the "Ugly American": How Trumpism is pushing Africa towards China

In Europe, as well as the US, observers have noted an increase in nationalism and anti-foreigner rhetoric. Trump has withdrawn the US from international agreements, erected barriers to international trade, engaged in dangerously confrontational rhetoric, restricted immigration and increased deportation proceedings all in a stark departure from the previous administration. He has also called for an end to funding the UN and eliminating USAID altogether. Qualitative interviews of development workers in the Zambian context detail surprising reactions to this new political climate. Moreover, the once strongly xenophobic reaction of Zambians against the significant (and increasing) Chinese presence is softening. At the same time, foreign development workers from the West seem ashamed and apprehensive about their own nations’ rising xenophobia and diminished stature abroad.

Kramer, Paul Gordon, The Global Politics of Queer Pornography

I explore what it means to place pornography on the local-global continuum. That pornography is relevant to global politics is increasingly apparent: PornHub, the world's largest pornography website, revealed usage of 64 million users per day in 2016. In America, Michael Lucas, one of the world's biggest producers of gay porn, rallies against “Muslim immigration;” in Brazil, Gustavo Vinagre creates pornography to critique neoliberal gentrification. As Katrien Jacobs argues, scrutinizing pornography's place in global politics reveals tensions between global governance and local culture. I argue that the notion that pornography is too personal for the scope of global politics demands, instead, an engagement with emerging, narrative, and reflexive approaches to demonstrate the ways sexual pleasure is both governed by and a challenge to global governance.

La Luz, Jose, Puerto Rico is America’s Greece: A Classic Case of Disaster Capitalism

More than two months after Hurricane María destroyed most of the US territory, half of the 3.4 US citizens remain without power and tens of thousands have no running water and no roof over their heads while their government is on its knees after having declared bankruptcy because of an spiraling debt of 74 billion to Wall St Banks and Hedge funds. This disaster mirrors the global crisis in many other countries combining gross economic inequality and the toll of climate change.

Langman, Lauren and Tova Benski, From “Me Too” to All of Us: Globalization, Feminism, and the Quest for Dignity

Ever since WWII, as more and more women entered the labor forces of the world they faced a variety of cultural and structural barriers toward equality with men. Primarily the legacy of long histories in which patriarchal power, ensconced in the structural organizations of power, articulated as hegemonic masculinity, has not only served as a barrier to women's progress, but as a system justifying male domination and sexual exploitation. But as in the case of most social movements, there is often a long process in which various forms of domination, denigration, and exploitation become more widespread and intense and then, at certain points, to paraphrase Marx, existing social relationships need to be discarded. Today we are witnessing women throughout the world mobilizing and organizing massive protests that can be seen as one of the major social movements of our times.

Layne, Priscilla, Afrofuturist Challenges to German National Identity: Sharon Dodua Otoo’s Synchronicity (2015)

In the novella Synchronicity, the female protagonist, Cee, belongs to an ethnic group who have the capability of parthenogenesis. This creates a matriarchal family of women who do not need men to procreate and embrace solitude and independence. However, there is an affliction that is passed down — namely the loss of the ability to see colors. Cee’s condition could be conceived of as a disability. But losing the ability to see color enhances her life in other ways. I argue Otoo uses Afrofuturism to challenge hegemonic constructions of German identity by decentering heteronormativity and normative understandings of race and ability.

Ledezma, Michael D., Right-Wing Nationalism in the French Elections

Two-round electoral systems are relatively understudied as compared to PR and Plurality systems. Additionally, only a handful of existing studies have investigated the relation between voter turnout and extremist party success or failure. Looking at rates of change in voter turnout between rounds 1 and 2 in French presidential and regional elections, this study investigates whether a systematic relationship holds between the electoral failure of the Front National and rates of change in voter turnout across rounds. Preliminary findings suggest that the FN’s presence in a runoff election is associated with a significant increase in turnout for the FN’s opponents.
Lopez, Edwin, Race, Culture, and Resistance at Standing Rock: An Analysis of Racialized Dispossession and Indigenous Resistance

This is an examination of the Indigenous-led movement to stop the Dakota Access Pipeline. With a focus on race, culture, and global capitalism, I draw from the notion of “racialized political cultures of opposition” (RPCO) to explain the link between micro-practices and macro-forces in social justice organizing. Why and how Sioux tribes resisted is explained by their experiences, emotions, beliefs, ideas, and networks. Critical to this analysis is how these elements were shaped by racism and globalization. Indigenous organizers are argued to have upended the inherent dispossession nature of these relations by centering race in global justice movement organizing.

Martin, Sylvia J., Inclusion and Exclusion through Film: Hong Kong Independent Cinema

In 2015 in Hong Kong, the independent film Ten Years was released, featuring a collection of stories about the imagined loss of aspects of Hong Kong culture under China in the year 2025. The film’s trajectory from its production phase to reception in Hong Kong offers a revealing juxtaposition of inclusions and exclusions including a rare incorporation of the city’s often overlooked ethnic minorities in a film about local identity, as well as screenings cancelled by cinemas even as audiences embraced the movie. In examining public and institutional responses to Ten Years, a complicated engagement with the nation emerges.

McBride, David, Urban Unrest, National Inequalities, and Racial Exclusion: New Ideal Types for Studying Urban Rights

In recent decades significant waves of urban unrest involving racial and social minorities have broken out across US and European cities. In the US between 2014 and 2016 alone three major riots occurred—Ferguson (Mo.), Baltimore (Md.), and Charlotte (N. C.). In France in 2005 a riot broke out in a Paris suburb heavily populated by African and Arab populations, and then spread to some 300 cities; while in Britain in 2011, a riot occurred in London and then spread to seven other Greater London areas and 8 additional UK cities. I analyze such clusters of urban unrest focusing on the question: what aspects of national inequality appear to be most forceful in causing these outbursts, and then the withering away of their impacts on closing national inequality gaps?

Macdonald, Lindsey, White Working Class: An Inquiry into the Reification of Racialized Class Categories

Due to the ongoing global productivity crisis, American workers continue to experience increasingly irregular and marginal employment as dispensable surplus labor. While the production and management of surplus labor is inherent to capitalism and is constantly changing, this panel argues that the alt-right is forming new strategies to extirpate the surplus population. Moreover, given that race is a modality in which class is lived, this panel specifically considers the racialized surplus subject in light of the alt-right’s anti-globalization discourse. The panel tries to explain both why and how this happening and asks what political response there can be.

Moghadam, Valentine M., Gendering the New Right-Wing Populisms

Populist and nationalist movements have a long history, and ideologically may appear as left-wing or right-wing. Feminist scholars have explored the gender dynamics of conservative nationalist movements or national identity projects, revealing the social-reproductive burdens placed on women as well as the reasons why some women are drawn to such movements. I put the spotlight on the contemporary wave of right-wing nationalist and populist movements, identifying their relationship to economic and cultural aspects of neoliberal capitalist globalization, highlighting the role of masculinities and femininities in their projects, and providing examples from Hungary, Poland, Turkey, and the US. Prospects for renewed feminist mobilizations against the wave of right-wing nationalism and indeed against neoliberal capitalism are also considered.

Moore, Alisa, “Hope you’re not too elfy.”: Constructions and Performances of Race in Dragon Age: Inquisition

One major appeal of high-fantasy role-playing games is the ability to inhabit the simulated body of a person of a race other than humanity, such as an elf. In Dragon Age: Inquisition, the way identity is constructed and subsequently performed by the player who chooses to control an elven main character is unique to other representations of the fantasy race. While playing an elven character, the player will experience a simulated version of racism in the form of micro-aggressions in comments other non-playable characters make, as well as in mechanical penalties at certain points in the game. I examine this phenomenon by utilizing a critical intersectional feminist theory lens to show how this game simultaneously succeeds and fails to present an accurate representation of a marginalized racial group, and what implications this carries for how players understand and interact with institutionalized racism outside of the realm of gameplay.
Nnajiofor, Peterson, Indigenous Capitalists and Socio-Economic Development in the Global South

I examine the latest stage of capitalist domination of the Global South by the indigenous elite and its effects on global capitalist expansion. Similar to the classic practice of exploitation by western corporations, the nascent indigenous capitalists, individuals or groups, exploit the market systems of their economies, investing and controlling the most lucrative sectors. Comparison of this phenomenon in Nigeria and South Africa to those of other emerging economies (China, Brazil, India) shows that these economic actors, history and race notwithstanding, are poised to follow in the footsteps of their predecessors from the West or even surpass them.

Otto, Jess M., Is there an American Ethnicity?

In the Fall 2017 semester I taught an upper-division philosophy seminar on the Philosophy of Race. Throughout the semester, the students and I continued to discuss one nagging question: is there an American ethnicity? Furthermore, we considered the correlative question of whether that ethnicity, if it does exist, is racialized in any other mode than white? I consider both of these questions from the metaphysical perspective relying on Jorge J.E. Gracia’s theories of race and ethnicity, but I also explore the phenomenological and social implications of both affirmative and negative answers to the preceding questions.

Parisot, James, Race, Gender, and Empire in the Origins of American Capitalism

This presentation, drawing from a book in progress, examines the ways that American capitalism developed gradually and unevenly from the colonial age through the mid to late 1800s in the context of empire-building. Specifically, it argues the colony that became an imperial nation-state in its own right began as a ‘society with capitalism’ and transitioned to become a ‘capitalist society’ over a two hundred and fifty-year uneven process. Through this, white masculinity and patriarchy provided a motivating force for empire-building on the frontier as racialized imperialism became central to ‘empire as a way of life’ and the cultural basis of American power.

Plaisime, Marie, Mi’Chael Wright, and Shannell Thomas, Transgendered Bodies in the Black Community

While prevailing scholarship on black transgenderism focuses on the physical traumas of having a non-conforming gender identity and/or gender expression (i.e. violence, sexually-transmitted diseases, forced sex labor, etc.), our research examines the cultural implications of having transgendered bodies in black communities that substantiate white supremacist ideologies. Specifically, we seek to determine how transgendered bodies threaten, preserve, and negotiate the already fragile construction of black femininity in Africa, the Caribbean, and the US. Our literature review centers its analysis on the subjective experiences of black male-to-female transgender individuals and considers the points at which their distinctly-situated femininities converge and diverge.

Pratt, Shontoria, Who is Killing the Brothers? Institutional Death and African American Male Redemption in Black Communities

African American men have been dying at an alarming rate for many years. Issues such as violence, prison, education success rates, and health-related issues, as well as institutional injustice, have been significant factors in these physical and mental deaths of African American men. The purpose of this research is to investigate the correlation, if any, between the quality of life of African American men in urban cities and their level of Afrocentric knowledge. To what extent do the exposure to and knowledge of Afrocentric views help African American men avoid these deaths? This research will present preliminary ideas based upon a review of the literature on Black masculinity, criminalization, and the educational institution.

Rader, Katherine, Fredrick Douglass: Radical Thinker and Activist

Many have taken this year, the bicentennial of Fredrick Douglass's birth, as an opportunity to reconsider his influence on the contemporary global order. Many scholars highlight his alignment with liberal theorists, however these accounts pay less attention to his more radical critiques of American politics. I argue that by examining his shifting stance on slavery in the American Constitution and his relationship with John Brown, a more radical critique of liberal democracy can be found. I situate these two narratives within Douglass’ broader politics and argue against the neat categorization of Douglass as a liberal thinker.
Raghu, Pratik, Smash Pedestals, Not Just Idols: Recontextualizing Fanonian Revolution for Contemporary Global Liberation

While many contemporary revolutionaries who read The Wretched of the Earth heed Frantz Fanon’s call to smash the false idols of Eurowestern civilizational superiority, not as many attend to the “Greco-Roman pedestal” beneath these idols. This pedestal constitutes not only platforms of power such as empire and the settler-colonial nation-state, but also revolutionary sources of inspiration, which can transform into destructive alter-hegemonies themselves. Drawing upon diverse radical philosophies and movements and autoethnographic reflections upon engagements with both, this presentation will infer and valorize the imperative for polyvocal, horizontal, and dynamic resistance and futurity from key passages of Fanon’s incendiary manifesto.

Rangel, Salvador, Making Whiteness Great Again: Retooling White Supremacy in the Era of Global Capital
Donald Trump’s (in)famous presidential campaign slogan was “Make America Great Again.” However, I argue that his agenda may be better understood as an attempt to make “whiteness great again,” and that it should be analyzed within the context of the shifting meaning and function of race in the latest stage of the era of global capitalism. The neoliberal order resulted in a new reality for many white workers in which they no longer were guaranteed the set of privileges they had come to expect. For this group, neoliberalism resulted not only in mass unemployment and the loss of material wages, but also in the reduction of the “wages of whiteness.” Unable (and unwilling) to reverse the march of the neoliberal juggernaut, the capitalist class has been faced with a loss of legitimacy. It’s clear that the ruling class has devised “making whiteness great again” as a key part of their re-legitimation program.

Resendiz, Ramon & Rosalva Resendiz, El Muro | The Wall
This one-hour film foregrounds Eloisa Tamez’s resistance against the US government’s building of the border wall/fence across her ancestral lands on the Texas/Mexico border. This project operationalizes a decolonizing framework of production inspired by Linda Tuhiwahi Smith, focusing on the continued violations against the indigenous Mestizos and their land. This area has a history of colonialism, imperialism, and a continued legacy of violent militarization along the Rio Grande River. In 2005 the US Congress enacted legislation for the purpose of building a fence along the border, without any respect for its people, the environment, treaties, and laws. Dr. Tamez, a tribal Lipan Apache elder and Spanish land-grant owner, refused to submit, and went on to sue the Department of Homeland Security. Her fight for social justice went to the federal court and spurred an inquiry and report by the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights.

Robinson, NaTasha, When Silence Screams: An Examination of Reporting Behavior Among Sexual Assault Victims on HBCU Campuses
According to the National Sexual Violence Resource Center, 20% to 25% of college women experience a completed or attempted rape during the course of their college career. However, less than 5% of college women file a report with law enforcement. Prior literature indicates that student characteristics/background, alcohol use, and affiliation with Greek life influence students’ chances of being sexually assaulted. Those factors also influence students’ decision to report the incidents. Current research on campus sexual assault victimization and students’ decisions to report has neglected Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs). Minorities are at high risk of sexual assault victimization, but are also less likely to report the incident. This study addresses this gap by examining sexual assault reporting on HBCU campuses, which may provide a better understanding of the factors that influence a student’s decision to report such incidents.

Robinson, Veronica Nmoma, Globalization, Race, and New Nationalism: What These Mean for Africa
Unlike previous American governments, Trump’s administration chose a different path. His foreign policy outlook is rooted in a narrow view of nationalism. His neo-isolationist posture signals a departure from multilateralism and a rejection of globalization. These are evident in the abdication of a leadership role in NATO, withdrawal from the Trans-Pacific Trade Pact, Paris Agreement on Climate Change and threat to drastically reduce funding for the UN. Trump has also been alleged to be racist. His “shithole” comment about African nations and preoccupation with birtherism is a concerted attempt to delegitimize Obama’s presidency. Africans are concerned with global insecurity and uncertainty that currently hangs over the international system. I contend the Trump administration guiding philosophy rooted in nationalism, unilateralism, racism, and anti-globalization, are bound to influence US policies towards Africa.
**Robinson, William I., Global Police State**

A global police state is emerging as world capitalism descends into a crisis that is unprecedented, given its magnitude, its global reach, the extent of ecological degradation and social deterioration, and the sheer scale of the means of violence that is now deployed around the world. Global police state refers to three interrelated developments. First is the ever more omnipresent systems of mass social control, repression, and warfare promoted by the ruling groups to contain the real and the potential rebellion of the global working class and surplus humanity. Second is how the global economy is itself based more and more on the development and deployment of these systems of warfare, social control, and repression simply as a means of making profit and continuing to accumulate capital in the face of stagnation – what I term militarized accumulation, or accumulation by repression. And third is the increasing move towards political systems that can be characterized as 21st century fascism, or even in a broader sense, as totalitarian.

**Rogers, Jamala, Intensifying the Fight for Democratic Possibilities at Home and Abroad**

For those organizing, educating, and agitating in the US, we have a historical and intimate relationship with an entrenched system of white supremacy, economic oppression, and cultural domination. There is a correlation between the strength of our social justice movements and the velocity of ideologies entrenching themselves in the US and spreading throughout the world. These anti-black, anti-gendered, and anti-Muslim beliefs, practices, and policies are projected from a domestic lens, then expanded and bolstered on a global scale. I explore the importance of rebuilding the US Left and the centrality of its influence in undermining the influence of neo-liberalism.

**Rogers, Jr., Charles G., If the World is on a Brink, Will America (United States) be to Blame?**

The United States has been engaged in several major world affairs for the last twenty years shaping the outcome to its interest. Recently America seems to be more polarized and further divided on the direction the country needs to go. This research seeks to explore how America’s internal relations in this sociopolitical cultural environment is influencing the direction of international relations.

**Romero, Luis A. and Amina Zarrugh, Converged Racial Framing: The Extension of Framing Across Racial and Ethnic Boundaries**

A key contention in the literature on race and ethnicity concerns the centrality of racial framing in sustaining racial and ethnic boundaries. We argue that an important but understudied aspect of racial framing is the process by which framings for one racial or ethnic group can be converged with and extended to racial framings of another group, which we term “converged racial framing” (CRF). We draw on racial and ethnic politics in the United States to illustrate how racial framings of Latinxs, Muslims, and African Americans, among others, have converged with one another in different historical periods.

**Romero, Mary, Racialized Citizens and Aliens, and the New Nationalism**

Whiteness has always been a major component of citizenship in the US and in numerous European countries. However, the New Nationalism in the US incorporates decades of the War on Gangs and the War on Drugs that are blended into Narco-Terrorism, which uses many of the same white nationalist and white supremacy ideologies to violate the civil and human rights of citizens and immigrants of color. Focusing on the anti-immigrant campaign in Arizona, similarities in the consequences of racialized immigration law enforcement are drawn to different areas within the country and the world.

**Sassen, Saskia, A Savage Sorting: The Rise of Extractive Logics in Advanced Economic Sectors**

Among the strong patterns of the post-80s period in ‘Western’ economies is a mix of economic and political vectors marked by extractive logics. We can find such logics in entities as diverse as mining and Facebook. The rise of these logics is partial, but sufficiently powerful to have altered key features of our economies. For instance, when mass consumption is the shaping sector of our economies even the nastiest corporation wanted the sons and daughters to do better than their parents so they would consume more, and supported government initiatives that transferred $ to households directly and indirectly. This began to change with the privatizations, deregulations, and rise of finance/financialization in the ‘80s. One way of putting it is to emphasize the extractive character of leading economic sectors. How did Google make its first billion so fast and so unencumbered by all kinds of traditional constraints? It got information about all of us for free and then sold it to businesses. When Facebook carries false information, it is not accountable. I argue that some of the most advanced and complex economic sectors are actually predatory and our major analytical categories do not help us to see this. The talk is based on key items in Expulsions (Harvard University Press).
Sathiamma, Sreerekha Mullassery, When My Brown Got Colored
This presentation is partly a reflection on the white supremacist rally and the events that unfolded in Charlottesville, Virginia in August 2017. I discuss ‘people of color’ and ‘color-blind’ as two relevant concepts toward a new perspective in understanding racial politics from my location as a new immigrant in the US. I would also briefly reflect upon my engagement with caste politics and anti-caste movements and the emergence of neo-nationalism in contemporary India and compare it with the stories of experiences of racism by Indians in the US in the globalized present.

Schmidt, Ingo, The Hopeless Anti-Populism
Responding to a deep crisis of legitimacy the neoliberal centre resorted to an anti-populism that denounces critique from left and right as hopelessly nostalgic and irrational. I argue that this anti-populism is helpless as right-wing populism has its roots in neoliberalism so that the continuation of neoliberal policies constantly fuels right-wing populism. As more and more people recognize that a rising tide doesn’t lift their boat, but may actually drown them, neoliberal populism reappears as anti-immigrant populism directing its fire against the victims that so-called humanitarian interventions produced in many parts of the world. I further point at the resurgence of totalitarianism, charges that equate left and right-wing populisms to discredit the emergence of viable left alternatives. Such alternatives have to navigate beyond the Scylla of supporting the neoliberal centre in a misunderstood effort to build a common front against the new right and the Charybdis of flirting with right-wing populism in a misguided hope to then lure people to the left later.

Shor, Fran, A Troll at the Bridge: Trump, Trumpism, and White Identity Politics
The rise and rule of Donald Trump embodies much that is disturbingly new, on the other hand, there are historic roots to many of the positions articulated by him. Thus, as argued by Naomi Klein, “Trump is not a rupture at all, but rather a culmination – the logical end point – of a great many dangerous stories our culture has been telling for a very long time.” In order to illuminate further the contexts out of which Trumpism emerged I want to highlight several overlapping domains from the socio-economic to the socio-cultural to the socio-psychological. I consider how these domains informed Trumpism as an electoral and governmental project, especially, but not exclusively, as a representation of white identity politics. Finally, I assess the forms of resistance that have challenged Trumpism and what the future of democracy might be given the persistence of white supremacy.

Silver, Beverly, Whither the Crisis? Racism, Fascism, and Counter-Movements at the Beginning/End of the “American Century”
I will look at today’s dynamics through the lens of the early and mid-twentieth century to think about current possibilities.

Smith, Paul, From Reserve to Surplus to Abandoned
Due to the ongoing global productivity crisis, American workers continue to experience increasingly irregular and marginal employment as dispensable surplus labor. While the production and management of surplus labor is inherent to capitalism and is constantly changing, this panel argues that the alt-right is forming new strategies to extirpate the surplus population. Moreover, given that race is a modality in which class is lived, this panel specifically considers the racialized surplus subject in light of the alt-right’s anti-globalization discourse. The panel tries to explain both why and how this happening and asks what political response there can be.

Sneh, Itai, Race and Humanity: Torture Embodies THE Difference Between “Us” and “Them”
Race denotes affinity between people who possess visible features (phenotypes) and shared identity following a socializing process. The result is a common cultural, ethnic, linguistic, and religious heritage that includes a select few, but excludes others to the point of dehumanizing and potential abuse, enslavement, even genocide. This pattern of abusing foreigners is a constant. The violent consequences of this division between “Us” and “Them” are particularly evident in the history of torture. Since early recorded history, human groups used various methods of torture to impose hierarchy and structure on other races that looked, talked, and behaved differently. I provide multiple examples for this pattern from ancient times until the “Global War on Terror.”
Soborski, Rafal, Prefigurative Politics in Anti-Neoliberal Movements: A Critique
Prefiguration is at the heart of anti-neoliberal activism. The intention of a prefigurative action is to unite its means with its aims; in other words, in a prefigurative movement the process is harmonized with the objective. The appeal of prefiguration is related to a widespread perception that corruption and hypocrisy are all-pervasive in mainstream political space. However, this model of activism has some important flaws. Thus, prefigurative commitment to horizontal organizing has obfuscated the entrenched mechanisms of informal power in operation within anti-neoliberal movements while at the same time hindering the movements’ effectiveness. I provide a critique of prefigurative politics by mapping the problems that it has posed to the dominant forms of anti-neoliberal resistance.

Sprague-Silgado, Jeb, The Caribbean and the Transnational Capitalist Class
The Caribbean, as a global (and historic) crossroads, as an entrepôt or crucible throughout the modern era, has passed through all the historical phases of world capitalism. I look at the Caribbean in regards to its reinsertion into the world economy under the latest phase in the history of world capitalism, the globalization phase. In the modern era Caribbean society has been an early laboratory of the neo-liberal “Washington consensus,” but also faced economic stagnation, as well as periods of investment, political tumult, and renewed US interventions. In recent decades we see the fragmenting of systems of ‘autocentric’ national production alongside their being subsumed by new transnational chains of accumulation. What are the social and class realities of this novel dynamic? How can we see the rise of a transnational capitalist class in regards to the region?

Taylor, Steven, Exiles, Entrepreneurs, and Educators: African Americans in Ghana
This study examines two waves of African Americans settling in Ghana. During the late-1950s to the mid-1960s, expatriates were fleeing persecution under Jim Crow and the Cold War. The current wave, which began in the 1980s, includes persons or spouses of persons interested in establishing business in Ghana. Included in the current wave are individuals dedicated to providing educational opportunities to youths. The findings reveal that most expatriates in the first wave were politically active and were associated with the political left, but many current expatriates are apolitical, with a surprising number having an affinity toward Ghana’s center-right political party.

Thomas, Darryl C., American Nativism and the Retreat from Globalism, Cosmopolitanism, and Hegemony in the 21st Century
In Who Are We: The Challenge to America’s National Identity, S.P. Huntington called on American policymakers to retreat from multiculturalism, globalization, and cosmopolitanism, and emphasize American Nationalism (Nativism) as a domestic and foreign policy to maintain the hegemony of whites in relations to other ethnic and racial minority populations in the US and a guarantee of the continuation of American global hegemony. I examine the current retreat from globalization, cosmopolitanism, multiculturalism, and hegemony and White Nativism is preferred to maintain American foreign policy interest around the world. I draw attention to how the rise in American Nativism represents American posture in the unfolding post-neoliberal world, and how Europe may be experiencing similar instances with “nativism” igniting a decline in the white world postwar world order. I also employ the black radical tradition along with critical political economy to unpack American Nativism and its attempt to counteract the transition to a post-American world order.

Thornton, E. Nicole, Negotiating Race, Ethnicity, and Nation: Multiculturalism and the Politics of Language in Mauritius
I examine the tension between race and ethnicity in the construction of multiculturalism in Mauritius, a plural, postcolonial society. Although Creoles represent nearly a third of the population, they are the only one out of four groups not officially recognized in the Mauritian Constitution. While scholarship exploring multiculturalism and racial politics in the Americas highlights race and ethnicity as two distinct categories that work differently for the populations in which they are ascribed, I build on these theories to explain the dis-recognition of Creoles by analyzing transnational, diasporic processes in the negotiation of multiculturalism as national belonging. I explain why the inclusion of the Kreol language has been rejected by the government until recently, and argue that through the state promotion of languages, non-Creole political actors have created ethnic categories of inclusion while reciprocally denoting racially-excluded others defined by their lack of diasporic cultural value.
Tortolini, David, The Appropriation of Mythologies for Assimilation through Media

With each new wave of immigrants, the newly established immigrant communities actively contribute to the American cultural landscape by blending their traditions and cultural identities. This is commonly seen in popular music, television, and food cultures. Because of the urgency to maintain hegemony the same outlets are being used to attack the immigrant groups. With assimilation, you can easily control a migrant group and maintain hegemony. This is especially true when it comes to the aspect of mythologies in film and television. With a failure of American culture to acknowledge it mythological identity you observe the dominant American culture white-washing an immigrant culture’s mythological identity. Through this the act of stripping a culture’s identity and power is occurring. Without any cultural value or power, you leave the migrant group powerless with ramifications felt for years to come.

Vargis, George and Salli Vargis, Religion and New Nationalism in India: Rise of Hindutva (Hinduness) and Erosion of Secularism?

India is one of the world’s most diverse countries, with secularism as a cardinal principle of its democracy. Secularism in India is based on religious neutrality unlike the western concept of separation of religion and state. India has no official religion and recognizes all religions. So the fundamental issue relating to the practice of secularism is religious pluralism. Hindu nationalists, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), have been working to replace secularism with religious chauvinism. This presentation will examine the constitutional provisions of secularism, its gradual erosion, and implications on the future of democracy in India.

Vaughn-Roberson, Clayton, Africa for Africans!: Garvey, Marx, and the Transnational Origins of the National Negro Congress

The “Hands Off Ethiopia” movement marks the origins of the National Negro Congress (NNC). During the Popular Front, the NNC articulated a transnational anti-fascist solidarity in order to globalize the black freedom struggle. Activists envisioned global anti-fascism as a crucial step towards the liberation of the black working class. Through conferences, speeches, essays, strikes, and grassroots activism, the NNC encouraged the black working class to assert itself on the global stage. Thus, the work of the NNC demonstrates how local struggles were inspired by the ideas of power and protest that the global anti-fascist resistance spawned.

Venkatesan, Madhavi, Economics: Disparity, Policy, and the Rise of Nationalism

The construction and primary purpose of racial categorization has historically been to differentiate groups of people from a dominant group and to thereby promote the power of the group as it relates to both the prevailing economic hierarchy and democratic framework of the country. For multiple reasons there have been initiatives to reduce the institutionalized economic impact of race. However, with an attribution of societal success that is aligned to socioeconomic status, the majority of policies intended to reduce the racial divide have arguably only provided superficial data that has been the fodder of justification for it. I will assess how bounded rationality has exacerbated the perception of the racial divide and enabled and reestablished nationalism consistent with segregation and marginalization of visibly distinguishable groups.

von der Heydt-Coca, Magda, The Pink Tide in Latin America Under South-South Influence: Bolivia and Venezuela in a Comparative Perspective

Since the beginning of the 21st century, a new wave of contemporary reformist governments in Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia, Venezuela, and Ecuador have inaugurated a trend known as the pink tide, or the new left. They have emerged in response to the so-called Washington Consensus and the austerity programs that disproportionally affected the lower echelons of the society. They implement inclusive redistributionist policies. They could also afford to defy US-led hegemony in the region. They have done so in part by forming regional blocs, such as the Union of South American Nations, The Alternativa Bolivariana para los Pueblos de Nuestra America, and the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States. I address the question how the commodity economic boom (2005-2013) affected the governmental policies of the hardliners Bolivia and Venezuela, and which factors are responsible for the contemporary different outcomes, Venezuela is collapsing and Bolivia is still relative stable.

Warren, Rueben, M.Shedlin, and E.Alema-Mensah, Tuskegee University

Racial/ethnic health inequities persist and continue to challenge the US research enterprise. This study explored the lack of African American participation in research, particularly clinical trials. Thirty-four interviews were conducted with leaders from three gatekeeper groups including, health/education, faith leadership, and civic society. Interviews were analyzed using Atlas.ti software. Findings indicate that trust and trustworthiness are essential in enhancing African Americans’ participation in clinical trials and other research. Establishing trustworthiness and enhancing leadership roles for African Americans in research were consistent themes that are essential, if increased participation by African Americans is expected.
Watson, Hilbourne A., Crisis of Global Capitalism, Global White Supremacy, and the New Nationalism

The study of social change is dominated by philosophical individualism and methodological nationalism that fragment the social, treats the individual as the irreducible unit of analysis, makes the sum of the parts greater than the whole, and reduces social relations between humans to technical relations between things. Contrastingly, I offer a historical materialist analysis of global white supremacy (GWS) and the new nationalism, and subsume them under the crisis of global capitalism, as reflected in overaccumulation, social polarization, legitimation and sustainability, and the impacts on working classes and other exploited and oppressed groups. I argue that GWS naturalizes and racializes world history, culture, politics, and social existence; historicizes nature; foments reactionary identitarian tendencies; doubles as the dominant norm of world order, and represents a politico-ideological expression of power relations, beyond the white somatic norm.

Westmoreland, Mark William, Transversal Racial Solidarity

I bring together two different frameworks that seek to combat racial injustice, namely transversal politics and political solidarity. By drawing these two frameworks together, I hope to show how anti-racist transversal politics can be a productive means of pursuing political solidarity. Among their commitments, both transversality and political solidarity entail critique. In addition to the critique of racism, xenophobia, and neocolonialism, one fundamental implication for the success of both frameworks is that an activist group must continually critique and reconfigure its own internal dynamics if it is to have any strength against global white supremacy.

Williams, Robert, Quaker Peace Testimony and the Disruption of Racial Narratives in the 17th Century Imperial Atlantic World

During the early 18th century, Quakers developed a comprehensive anti-slavery position while many of their members were deeply interconnected in the Global Anglo-Imperial trade networks whose commodity chains were dependent on the labor of enslaved peoples. In addition to the economic considerations, white supremacy, constructed to normalize this exploitation, had become deeply integrated into the culture of the Anglophone Atlantic. Thus, to attack the institution was to hack at the roots of both the economic and cultural underpinnings of the British Empire. In spite of this, Quakers built an abolitionist consensus. I examine the religious and cultural practices of 17th century Quakers in order to understand how the evolution of this moral logic was possible.

Zeglen, David, Cultural Marxism as Global Conspiracy: The Political Economy of the New Anti-Semitism

Due to the ongoing global productivity crisis, American workers continue to experience increasingly irregular and marginal employment as dispensable surplus labor. While the production and management of surplus labor is inherent to capitalism and is constantly changing, this panel argues that the alt-right is forming new strategies to extirpate the surplus population. Moreover, given that race is a modality in which class is lived, this panel specifically considers the racialized surplus subject in light of the alt-right’s anti-globalization discourse. The panel tries to explain both why and how this happening and asks what political response there can be.