

*The James Weldon
Johnson Institute
for the Study of Race
and Difference*

EMORY UNIVERSITY

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Director's Letter: *Conveners of Courageous Scholarship*

Dear Friends of the James Weldon Johnson Institute,

I hope your academic year has been intellectually fruitful. The state of the world and the normal rigors of the academy keep us busy at JWJI. Issues related to race and difference have always been relevant in America. Sadly, the headlines repeatedly point to the fact that the research we undertake on race, civil rights, and difference remains incredibly relevant today.

I cannot think of a better time to be engaged in such important scholarship. As researchers, we have the privilege and the responsibility to study the issues that remain unexamined. To tell the stories that have not been told. To use our evidence to speak empirical truth to power.

JWJI seeks to be a supporter and a convener of courageous scholarship. Here, we can provide material and moral assistance to scholars at critical career stages to help them make ideas tangible—whether in a well-crafted series of articles, a dissertation, or a seminal book project. We then help these scholars introduce their work to a wider community. We hope that our programs are widely visible, legible, and useful to



humanity, prompting us to think critically about how we treat others and arrange our societies.

You play an important role in this effort. By attending our events, you provide critical feedback to our fellows and start important conversations with our speakers. You continue this engagement when you consume their written work. And when you generously support our efforts financially, you enable us to continue to create and disseminate knowledge.

We want to thank you for the many ways you support us. In the pages that follow, I hope you enjoy reading more about how your support manifests itself in our programming. Again, thank you for your support, and we look forward to your continued engagement.

Sincerely,

Andra Gillespie

About the 2018–2019 Visiting Scholars

The James Weldon Johnson Institute is pleased to welcome six visiting scholars for all or part of the academic year. We owe our growth to a number of sponsors, especially the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and the Fulbright Foundation. Below are brief biographies of each of our incoming Mellon-sponsored fellows.

Mellon Visiting Scholars

As a result of the continued support of the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, we are pleased to welcome three distinguished scholars to Emory to complete a project of their choice.

Keisha Brown (*Tennessee State University*)

Keisha Brown is an assistant professor of history at Tennessee State University in the Department of History, Political Science, Geography, and Africana Studies. She received a bachelor's degree from the University of Notre Dame and earned her doctorate from the University of Southern California. Brown specializes in East Asian history, specifically modern China. Her research and teaching interests include comparative East Asian histories, postcolonial theory, transnational studies, world history, and race and ethnic studies. Her latest publication, "Blackness in Exile: W. E. B. Du Bois' Role in the Formation of Representations of Blackness as Conceptualized by the Chinese Communist Party (CCP)" analyzes Du Bois' performativity of race in China. During her residency at Emory, Brown will work on her book manuscript, tentatively titled "Beyond Colored Paradigms: Representations of Blackness in China," which explores Sino–African American relations and blackness in Republican-era and Maoist China. Her research examines networks of difference in China used to understand the black foreign other through an investigation of the social and political context that African Americans navigated and negotiated during their time in Maoist China.



Jeremiah Favara (*University of Oregon*)

Jeremiah Favara is a critical media studies scholar whose research and teaching focus on intersecting dynamics of gender, race, sexuality, class, and other forms of difference in media production, representation, and technologies. He is a graduate of Montana State University and received an MSc in gender, development, and globalization from the London School of Economics and Political Science in 2011 and a PhD in media studies from the University of Oregon in 2017. His work has been published in *Feminist Media Studies*, *Ada: A Journal of Gender, New Media, and Technology*, and *Critical Military Studies*. Favara's research on representations of diversity and inclusion in military recruitment advertising has been recognized by the American Journalism Historians Association and the Hartman Center for Sales, Advertising, and Marketing History at Duke University.



During his residency at Emory, Favara will work on his book manuscript, "An Army of Some: Inclusion and Diversity in US Military Recruiting," focusing on military recruitment advertising strategies and representations from 1973 through 2016. The book explores the processes through which an institution tasked with the maintenance of state violence, and historically defined by racial and gender exclusion, has become one of United States' most diverse institutions. In investigating strategies and representations of military recruiting, the analysis contextualizes the project of military inclusion within broader dynamics of racial capitalism and interrogates how narratives of equity, inclusion, and multiculturalism, when sutured to the military institution, expose newly included individuals to the risks and costs of perpetuating state violence.

Lindsay Livingston (*Brigham Young University*)



Lindsay Adamson Livingston is an assistant professor of theatre at Brigham Young University. She received her PhD in theater from the City University of New York. Livingston's scholarly work explores the interplay of race, space, and performance in public locations in the United States. Her scholarship has been published in *Theatre Journal*, *TDR*, *Theatre Survey*, *a/b: Auto/Biography* and the essay collections *Performance in a Militarized Culture* and *Enacting History*. She is an active member of the American Studies Association, the Association for Theatre in Higher Education, and the American Society of Theatre Research. She currently serves as conference planner for ATHE's Performance Studies Focus Group. Livingston is also a director whose BYU credits include *The Merchant of Venice*, *Gone Missing*, *The Cleverest Thief*, and *The Winter's Tale*. While at Emory, she will be working on a book manuscript about the racialized performances implicated in the debate around gun control.

Mellon Dissertation Fellows

In addition to the visiting scholars, the Mellon Foundation has also graciously agreed to support two external dissertation fellowships for doctoral students to come to Emory and complete their dissertations.

Dwight Lewis (*University of South Florida*)

Dwight Lewis, a doctoral candidate at the University of South Florida in Tampa, works under Roger Ariew and Justin E. H. Smith in the history of philosophy. His research focuses on concepts of human difference (e.g., race, gender, and sexuality), underrepresented philosophers, and early modern philosophy generally construed. He will defend his dissertation, “Amo’s Philosophy and Reception: From the Origins through the Encyclopédie,” in the spring of 2019.

Lewis’s dissertation seeks to address the lack of diversity in the philosophical canon and the insufficient historical analysis of various designations of human difference, like race. He does so by interrogating the work of Anton Amo, the first African to obtain a doctoral degree in philosophy (1734) at a modern European university. Amo was both a philosopher in 18th-century Germany and an African slave. He embodies the idea that philosophy and race share a symbiotic relationship. Lewis’s research attempts to elucidate Amo’s philosophical significance and its relation to race and human difference.



Rafael Solarzano (*UCLA*)

Rafael Solarzano is a PhD candidate in the Department of Chicano/a Studies at UCLA. He has been an educational and immigrant rights advocate and community organizer for more than 15 years and has been a part of many community and statewide campaigns designed to counter racial violence, achieve educational justice, and end the school-to-prison-to-deportation pipeline.



While in residence, Solarzano will be completing his dissertation, “Queering the Emergent Borderlands; Undocuqueer Activism in the US South,” which investigates how the Trail of Dreams, a four-month walk from Miami to Washington D.C., redefined migrant rights activism in 2010. He traces how undocumented youth activists and their allies not only advocated for a pathway to citizenship but introduced new ideas about what rights are, who should be at the center of the fight for migrant rights, and what new strategies should be used in attaining these rights. This project has received grant support from UCLA’s Institute of American Cultures and its Chicano Studies Research Center as well as the Tamar Diana Wilson Fund.

Laney Dissertation Fellow

Laney Graduate School has agreed to match the Mellon Fellowships with one of their own for an Emory graduate student studying race.

Timothy Rainey (*Emory University*)



Timothy Rainey is a PhD candidate in the Graduate Division of Religion studying American religious cultures. His research focuses on economics, race, and religion in the 19th-century Atlantic world (especially regarding notions of labor, social mobility mythology, uplift rhetoric, and the ways each has changed over time). He gives particular attention to the concept of “economic emancipation” and the ways in which this liberative notion has captured the spiritual imagination of black Americans.

He frames economic emancipation as a value-laden concept with vibrant and nuanced manifestations evinced in the histories of African recolonization efforts, ideologies that have attempted to leverage the im/materiality of Africa as a sacred symbol, the participation of black churches in economic cooperation and the controversial notion that black capitalism could inaugurate black liberation.

UNCF-Mellon Faculty Fellow

In addition to the Visiting Scholars Program, the Mellon Foundation also supports a semester-long visiting scholars program for faculty of historically black colleges and universities. This year, we are pleased to welcome one fellow to Emory for the fall semester.

Moon Charania (*Spelman College*)

Moon Charania is an assistant professor of international studies at Spelman College. A cultural theorist of race, sex, trauma, and empire in the late 20th- and early 21st-century United States and Pakistan, she is author of *Will the Real Pakistani Woman Please Stand Up: Empire, Visual Culture, and the Brown Female Body*, which offers a detailed analysis of multiple types of Pakistani women who currently travel in transnational media, books, and film, fruitfully troubling and radically expanding our knowledge of the place of gender, sexuality, and racialization in the (neo-) colonial production of otherness and its materialized deployment in global politics.



Charania is working on her second book manuscript, tentatively titled *Learning My Mother's Tongue/s: Affective Archives, Queer Intimacies, and Maternal Trauma*, a project that follows in the tradition of Audre Lorde, Gloria Anzaldúa, and Dionne Brand in the mode of creative nonfiction to think through trauma and feminist theory, neo/colonialisms and diaspora and the intimate geographies of race.

Public Dialogues in Race and Difference, 2018–2019 Recap of October *Public Dialogue*

Beyond Black and White: Multiracialism in America
October 4, 2018,
Jones Room, Robert Woodruff Library

In 2000, the US Census Bureau allowed Americans to classify themselves into more than one racial category for the first time. In that census, 2.5 percent of Americans identified more than one race. Ten years later that number increased to 2.9 percent.

These numbers both foreshadow the increase in Americans who will likely identify as multiracial in the future and perhaps underestimate the number of people who currently have recent ancestors of different races. According to the Pew Research Center, 6.9 percent of American adults have parents or grandparents of different races. In 2015, 17 percent of marriages in the US involved partners of different races.

Some of these changes reflect differences in self-reporting. Some reflect differences in attitudes regarding the acknowledgment of interracial relationships. In either case, these changes reflect the reality that people of mixed-race heritage have always been a part of America.

In this dialogue, we wanted to explore what it means to be multiracial from a social, legal, historical, and cultural sense. Our panel of interdisciplinary experts have spent years considering the question of mixed-raced identity, and they provided helpful and incisive commentary in this dialogue.



Panelists

Gregory Carter
Associate Professor of History
University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee
Author, *The United States of the United Races: A Utopian History of Racial Mixing*

Michelle Elam
William Robertson Coe Professor of
Modern Thought and Literature
Stanford University
Author, *The Souls of Mixed Folk: Race, Politics, and Aesthetics in the New Millennium*

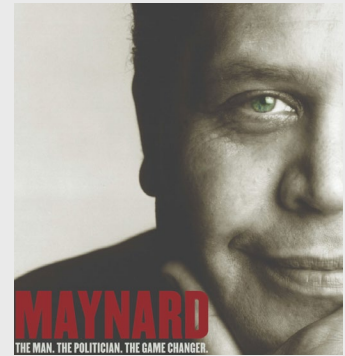
Tanya Hernandez
Archibald R. Murray Professor of Law
Fordham University School of Law
Author, *Multiracials and Civil Rights: Mixed-Race Stories of Discrimination* (forthcoming)

Natalie Masuoka
Associate Professor of Political Science
University of California–Los Angeles
Author, *The Politics of Belonging: Race, Public Opinion and Immigration*

November *Public Dialogue*

Maynard: The Man, The Politician, The Game Changer
Film Screening and Panel Discussion
November 8, 2018, 5:00–8:30 p.m.

The James Weldon Johnson Institute was pleased to host a screening and panel discussion of the documentary *Maynard*. Chronicling the rise of Atlanta’s first black mayor, this documentary is part biography and part history of urban politics in Atlanta. The screening was followed by a panel featuring Wendy Eley Jackson, executive producer of the film and daughter-in-law of Maynard Jackson; Maurice Hobson, associate professor of African American Studies at Georgia State University and author of *Legend of the Black Mecca: Politics and Class in the Making of Modern Atlanta*; and Teri Platt, associate professor of political science at Clark Atlanta University.



Public Dialogues in Race and Difference, *Spring 2019*

Black Masculinities: A Conversation on Visual Art and Popular Representation will feature internationally renowned artist Fahamu Pecou and R. Scott Heath, assistant professor of English, Georgia State University. Emory Provost Dwight A. McBride will provide an introduction.

February 28, 6:00–7:30 p.m.
Ackerman Hall, Michael C. Carlos Museum

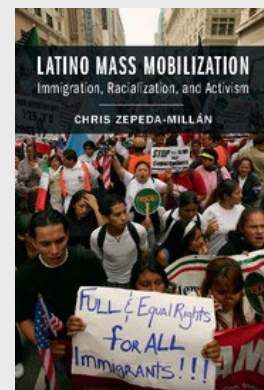
More speakers to be announced soon.
Visit jwji.emory.edu for forthcoming details.



Race and Difference Colloquium, *Spring Series 2019*

The spring colloquium series will kick off on January 28, 2019, at noon in the Jones Room with inaugural speaker Chris Zepeda-Millan, associate professor of public policy and Chicano/a studies at the University of California, Los Angeles. For a full list of speakers, visit our event calendar at www.jwji.emory.edu.

He will present on his latest book, *Latino Mass Mobilization: Immigration, Racialization, and Activism* (Cambridge University Press 2017). “In the spring of 2006, millions of Latinos across the country participated in the largest civil rights demonstrations in American history. In this timely and highly anticipated book and lecture, Chris Zepeda-Millán analyzes the background, course, and impacts of this unprecedented wave of protests, highlighting their unique local, national, and demographic dynamics. He finds that because of the particular ways the issue of immigrant illegality was racialized, federally proposed anti-immigrant legislation (H.R. 4437) helped transform Latinos’ sense of latent group membership into the racial group consciousness that incited their engagement in large-scale collective action.”



Fellows' Spring Courses



Navigating the Pacific: 20th-Century Afro-Asian Relations AAS 385/HIST 396/EAS 385

Keisha Brown
W 2:30–5:00 p.m.

Navigating the Pacific examines the Chinese Communist Party's (CCP) interactions with peoples designated as "other." Since the founding of the People's Republic of China (PRC) in 1949, the CCP has propagated the diversity of China through its ethnic nationalities. This course will interrogate the formation of these ethnic nationalities and the propagation of China as a multi-ethnic nation to examine how the CCP uses exchanges and encounters with the "other" to further CCP cultural and political agendas. This course treats race and ethnicity as social constructs to address how these identities change over time and are shaped by society and politics. The first part of the course will introduce students to race and ethnic theories in general and China in particular. The readings for this section lay the analytical foundation and historical framework for the course. The second part of the course will continue this discussion through an analysis of relations between the Han and other ethnic nationalities as well as relations between the CCP and ethnic nationalities and the historical roots of contemporary sociocultural and political issues. The third and final part of the course focuses on encounters and exchanges between the CCP and foreign others, with an emphasis on the black other. This last segment of the course will begin with readings on Bandung to provide context on and briefly explore the historical and political motivations for the CCP forming relations with Afro-Asian peoples and nations.



Race and Military Inclusion AAS 385/AMST 385/WGSS 385

Jeremiah Favara
MW 4:00–5:15 p.m.

For many Americans, war is encountered as a media spectacle. From first-person shooter games to journalistic coverage of embedded reporters, experiences of war and militarization are often mediated. Considering relationships between media industries and military institutions (the military-entertainment complex), this course explores how representations and experiences of war and militarization contribute to an imagined idea of the nation. Representations of militarization from the local to the global are articulated in a diverse array of media, from Hollywood films about the global "war on terror" to recruitment advertisements targeted toward diverse individuals. As we encounter, consume, and produce such media, the ways in which different bodies are included, positioned, and erased contributes to understandings of race, gender, sexuality, and citizenship.

This course explores sites across the mediascape and engages with interdisciplinary scholarship related to the study of media, militarization, difference, and the nation. The course explores the construction and ongoing maintenance of the military-entertainment complex and what implications mediated relationships to warfare and militarization have for understandings of citizenship and national belonging. Drawing on a variety of interdisciplinary scholars, including work by Cynthia Enloe, Kimberly Phillips, Jasbir Puar, and Judith Butler, among others, the course links frameworks for thinking of race, gender, sexuality, citizenship, and military service with mediated representations of militarization. Mediated representations of militarization are taken seriously as having implications for politics of belonging within the nation.



Fellows' Spring Courses

Performance, Race, and the Law

AAS 385/THEA 389

Lindsay Livingston

TTh 10:00–11:15 a.m.

Performance, Race, and Law explores the ways in which racial identity in the United States is co-produced through formal legal decisions (court cases and laws), popular aesthetic forms such as theater and film, and everyday public performances of the self. Students should take away from this class is that racial subjectivity—and the lived experience of race in the United States—is a process of enactment wherein laws and legal definitions of race gain excess meaning in and through individual and collective performances of racial identity. Students will read performance and cultural theory as well as texts such as Robin Bernstein's *Racial Innocence* and Joshua Takano Chambers-Letson's *A Race So Different*, which situate legal realities in the realm of everyday performance. We will start by examining the Virginia Slave Codes of 1705 and move through the 1790 Naturalization Act, the Dred Scott decision, Black Codes and Jim Crow laws, and the Immigration Act of 1924. Within these periods we will explore the everyday performances and cultural products that co-create the racial identities codified in law. The course will culminate in a performance piece for the Emory community that deconstructs the intertwining of performance and law. In this way, students will be the resistant as well as the productive possibilities for performance to aid in the quest for civil and human rights.

The James Weldon Johnson Institute supports research, teaching, and public dialogue that examines race and the intersecting dimensions of human difference. We lead conversations through our Public Dialogue series, support undergraduate discovery, and fuel the new and innovative research and publications of our faculty. All of this is made possible through your generous gifts. Please consider making JWJI a part of your giving this year. [You can find out more on our giving site.](#)