



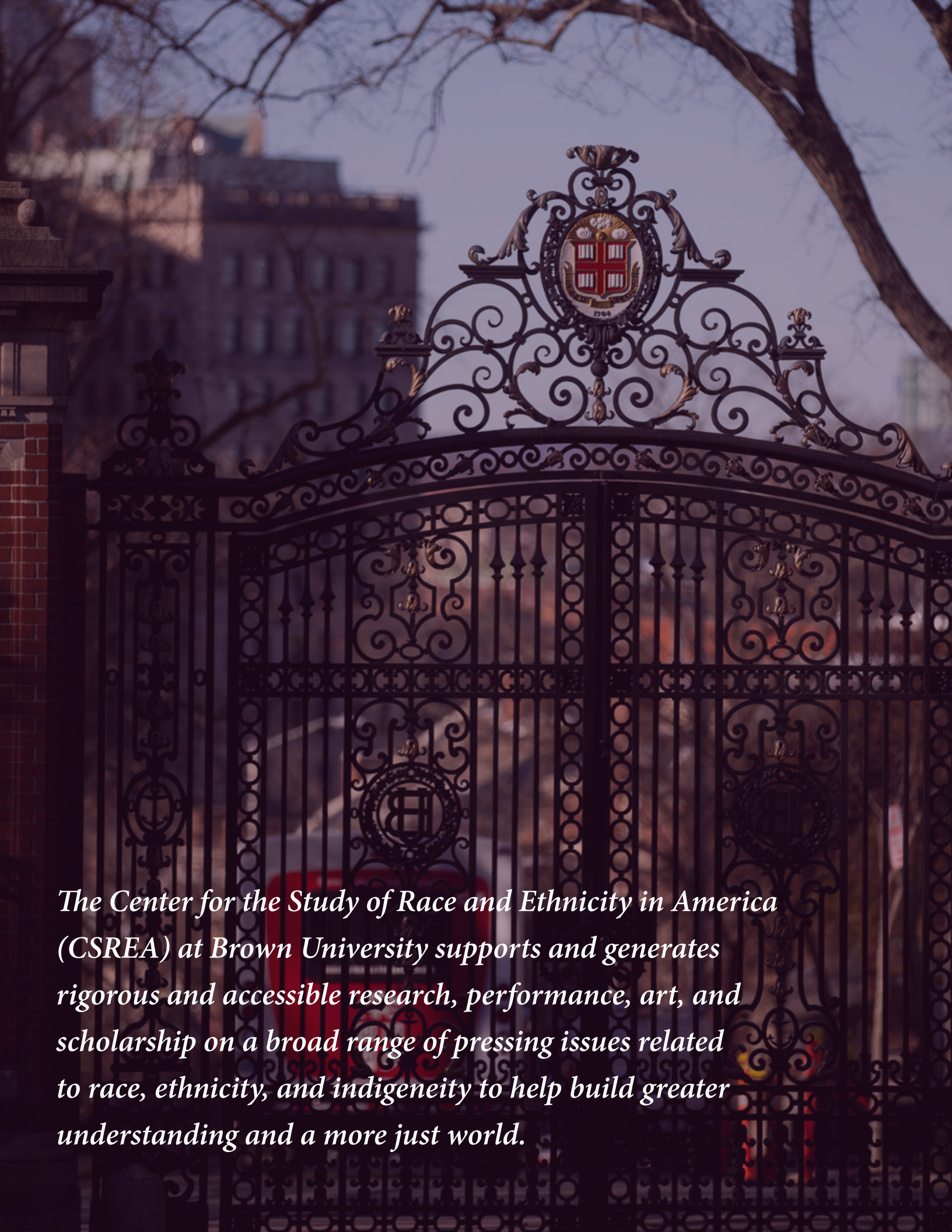
**BROWN**

Center for the Study of  
Race and Ethnicity in America

# ANNUAL REPORT

## 2022-2023





*The Center for the Study of Race and Ethnicity in America (CSREA) at Brown University supports and generates rigorous and accessible research, performance, art, and scholarship on a broad range of pressing issues related to race, ethnicity, and indigeneity to help build greater understanding and a more just world.*



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# FROM THE ACTING DIRECTOR



**STÉPHANIE LARRIEUX MA'01 PH.D. '08**

Acting Director,  
Center for the Study of Race and Ethnicity in America

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## *Dear Community,*

Greetings! My name is Stéphanie Larrieux, and I serve as the Associate Director at the Center for the Study of Race and Ethnicity in America.

This past year was a somewhat different one for CSREA. Our Faculty Director, Tricia Rose, was on a research sabbatical. In her absence, I assumed stewardship of the Center as Acting Director.

Reconnection was a major theme for CSREA as we navigated the latest phase of the coronavirus pandemic. Ever mindful of the tumultuous political landscapes, ongoing public health crises, and deepening social fractures, we endeavored to adapt to new ways of maintaining, cultivating, and expanding community. Toward this end, we developed an innovative hybrid programming model that enabled us to share cutting-edge research with both our local in-person and virtual constituents. We also expanded the reach of programming through greater accessibility via more closed-captioning and interpretation services for the hearing-impaired.

Our programs and events of the past year were designed to inspire curiosity, creativity, and connectivity. They featured nuanced facets of research that explored topics like language, disability, sexuality, environment, technology, and health in refreshed ways.

Several of our events highlighted the work of scholars of race and ethnicity here on campus. Our New Book Talks series featured eight authors, many of whom are Brown University faculty. We also welcomed to campus new cohorts of faculty fellows, visiting professors, and artist practitioners as well as supported students with various research opportunities and funding. CSREA's ongoing collaboration with the Centering Race Consortium Mellon grant partners at the University of Chicago, Stanford, and Yale continued to yield engagement across campuses.

We also reinvigorated our array of arts-focused programs to support artists in their work of helping society express and grapple with intense experiences and feelings of recent years. The Imagining Social Justice Art Exhibit theme of Solidarity, for example, explored the virtues of mutual support, allyship, and community in the face of tumult and adversity.

The achievements of the past year would not have been possible without the energy, talent, and dedication of the CSREA staff. I am deeply grateful to my colleagues for their trust, encouragement, and hard work. I also wish to acknowledge and express my thanks to Tricia Rose and the greater CSREA community for your guidance and support. I look forward to our work together and the Center's continued growth and success.

*Sincerely,*

*Stéphanie Larrieux*

# FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMS

*Primarily funded by a generous grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, our fellowship programs build intellectual communities among advanced graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, faculty, and artists researching race, ethnicity, and indigeneity. These initiatives create opportunities for cross-generational and cross-rank mentorship and dialogue.*

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# PRACTITIONER FELLOWS

*The Practitioner Fellowship program convenes artists, media makers, and writers to develop creative projects that produce new knowledge of the issues and experiences of race, ethnicity, and indigeneity. Fellows grow in their varied artistic practices through the exchange of multidisciplinary feedback.*



VICTOR YANG

## MURIELLE BORST-TARRANT

BROWN PRACTITIONER FELLOW

250TH ANNIVERSARY VISITING ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF THE PRACTICE, BROWN ARTS INITIATIVE

Murielle Borst-Tarrant (Kuna/Rappahannock) is an author, playwright, director, producer, cultural artist, educator, and human rights activist. She works on the deconstructing of methods of the arts in Native communities in urban areas across the country, Canada, and in the New York City education system. She also consults with many urban and non-urban universities on the development of Native theater programming. Named in American Theater Magazine as one of the most influential women in American Theater, Borst-Tarrant is the Artistic Director of Safe Harbor Indigenous Collective and consultant for La MaMa Experimental Theatre Indigenous Initiative.

## CHRISTIAN CAMPBELL

PRACTITIONER FELLOW

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH, UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

Christian Campbell is a writer of Bahamian and Trinidadian heritage. He studied at Oxford as a Rhodes Scholar and received a Ph.D. at Duke. His poetry and essays have been published widely in journals and anthologies such as Callaloo, Indiana Review, New Caribbean Poetry, New Poetries IV, PN Review, Poetry London, Small Axe, The Ringing Ear: Black Poets Lean South, The Routledge Companion to Anglophone Caribbean Literature, Wasafi i, and West Branch. His work has been translated into Spanish in the anthology Poetas del Caribe Ingles. He has received grants and fellowships from Cave Canem, the Arvon Foundation, the Ford Foundation, the Fine Arts Work Center, and the University of Birmingham. He is also a recipient of a Lannan Foundation Residency Fellowship.

## BECCI DAVIS

BROWN PRACTITIONER FELLOW

LECTURER, DEPARTMENT OF VISUAL ART, BROWN UNIVERSITY

Becci Davis was born on a military installation in Georgia named after General Henry L. Benning of the Confederate States Army. Her birth began her family's first generation after the Civil Rights Act and its fifth generation post-Emancipation. As a Providence-based visual artist, they find inspiration in exploring archives, commemoration practices, memory, landscapes and connection to place. Becci earned their MFA from Lesley University College of Art and Design. In 2021, they were the recipient of the Public Humanities Scholar Award, given by the Rhode Island State Council for the Humanities. Becci has also been awarded the St. Botolph Club Foundation Emerging Artist Award in Visual Art, the RI State Council on the Arts Fellowship in New Genres, and the RISD Museum Artist Fellowship. Their work has been shown nationally in spaces such as Jane Lombard Gallery, Newport Art Museum, TILA Studios, Biennial of the Americas, and more. Becci is a member of the WARP Collective and serves on the Providence Special Committee for the Review of Commemorative Works.



## CATHERINE GUND BA'88

PRACTITIONER FELLOW

FOUNDER AND DIRECTOR OF AUBIN PICTURES

Founder and Director of Aubin Pictures, Catherine Gund is an Emmy-nominated and Academy-shortlisted producer, director, writer, and activist. Her media work focuses on strategic and sustainable social transformation, racial justice, arts and culture, HIV/AIDS and reproductive justice, and the environment. Her films have screened around the world in festivals, theaters, museums, and schools; on PBS, the Discovery Channel, Sundance Channel, Netflix, and Amazon Prime. Her recent films include: *Angola Do You Hear Us? Voices From a Plantation Prison* (Paramount+), *Primera* (HBO), and *Aggie* (Strand Releasing). An alumnus of Brown University and the Whitney Independent Study Program, she has four children and lives in NYC.

## ENONGO LUMUMBA KASONGO

BROWN PRACTITIONER FELLOW

DAVID S. JOSEPHSON ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF MUSIC, BROWN UNIVERSITY

SAMMUS (Enongo Lumumba-Kasongo) is a black feminist rap artist and producer from Ithaca, NY with a Ph.D. in Science and Technology Studies from Cornell University. She teaches classes on rap songwriting and feminist sound studies. Since Fall 2020 she has served as the Community Outreach Chair for The Keeper Project at Brown, a digital humanities project that aims to develop the most comprehensive digital archive for the international contributions of womxn and girls across Hip Hop's 50-year history. She is also a member of Brown's Science, Technology, and Society steering committee.

## TOBY SISSON

PRACTITIONER FELLOW

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR AND DIRECTOR, STUDIO ART PROGRAM, CLARK UNIVERSITY

Toby Sisson earned her M.F.A. from the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities. In addition to her studio practice in drawing, painting and printmaking, Sisson's areas of specialization incorporate community-based service learning, collaborative public art, and curatorial projects. Her creative research explores themes at the intersection of history and race in America. She has exhibited widely, including the Tianjin Art Museum in China, Provincetown Art Center and Museum, Hunterdon Museum of Art, the John D. O'Bryant African American Institute, Louisiana State University, Rhode Island College, and St. Thomas University. Her work is in numerous public and private collections, among them Brown University and the Worcester Art Museum. Toby Sisson's home and studio are located in Providence, Rhode Island.

## VICTOR YANG

PRACTITIONER FELLOW

VISITING ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH, AMHERST COLLEGE

Victor is a Boston-based writer with roots in southern China and the American South. Much of his creative work draws from his experience in movements for racial and immigrant justice. As an organizer, he has supported local community leaders to stop ICE deportations, run national campaigns for immigrant rights, and double voter turnout in communities of color. He used to serve as the lead educator for a labor union of 18,000 members, where he pioneered a bilingual worker school. His writing has been published in *Longreads*, *The Boston Globe*, *The Rumpus*, *The Southern Review*, *Gulf Coast*, *Best Small Fictions 2021*, and the *Chicago Tribune*, the lattermost as a 2020 *Algren Award* finalist. He has received support from the City of Boston, Macondo, Virginia Center for the Arts, New Orleans Writers' Residency, and Blue Mountain Center. He earned an MFA in fiction from Boston University, and he has a Ph.D. in Politics from the University of Oxford, where he studied movements for racial equity. He teaches writing workshops at Amherst College.

# BROWN FACULTY FELLOWS



## MADINA AGÉNOR '05

BROWN FACULTY FELLOW  
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF EPIDEMIOLOGY AND  
BEHAVIORAL AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

As a social epidemiologist and interdisciplinary health equity scholar, Dr. Agénor investigates health inequities in relation to multiple social identities using an intersectional lens and a mixed-methods research approach. She uses quantitative and qualitative research methods to investigate the structural and social determinants of oncological, sexual, and reproductive health among multiply marginalized groups at diverse intersections of identity. Dr. Agénor completed postdoctoral research training in cancer prevention equity at Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health and Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and was Visiting Research Faculty at the Yale Center for Interdisciplinary Research on AIDS.



## PRUDENCE CARTER '91

BROWN FACULTY FELLOW  
SARAH AND JOSEPH JR. DOWLING PROFESSOR OF SOCIOLOGY

Prior to returning to Brown, Carter was E.H. and Mary E. Pardee Professor and Dean of the Graduate School of Education at Berkeley from 2016-2021. Professor Carter's research focuses on explanations of enduring inequalities in education and society and their potential solutions. Specifically, she examines academic and mobility disparities shaped by the effects of race, ethnicity, class, and gender in the U.S. and global society. Carter's award-winning book, *Keepin' It Real: School Success beyond Black and White* (2005), debates cultural explanations used to explain school achievement and racial identity for low-income Black and Latino youth. *Keepin' It Real* was recognized as the 2006 co-winner of the American Sociological Association (ASA) Oliver C. Cox Book Award for its contribution to the eradication of racism. Professor Carter is the 2022-23 President of the ASA.



## BEYOND THE FELLOWSHIP

### AINSLEY LESURE

2020-2021 BROWN FACULTY FELLOW  
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF POLITICAL SCIENCE AND AFRICANA STUDIES

In Spring 2023, LeSure returned to the Center to participate in a Manuscript Workshop. With a particular focus on junior faculty, these workshops convene internal and external scholars to help develop robust manuscripts or major peer-reviewed journal articles. LeSure's current book project, tentatively titled, *Locating Racism in the World: Toward an Anti-Racist Reality*, reconceptualizes racism in the post-Civil Rights era. It advocates for a more wordly account of racism that paves a clearer path to institutional accountability and participatory democracy.

# VISITING FACULTY FELLOWS



## DAMARIS B. HILL

VISITING FACULTY FELLOW  
PROFESSOR OF CREATIVE WRITING, ENGLISH, AND AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES  
UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY

DaMaris B. Hill, Ph.D. is a poet and creative scholar. She is the author of *Breath Better Spent: Living Black Girlhood*, *A Bound Woman Is a Dangerous Thing: The Incarceration of African American Women from Harriet Tubman to Sandra Bland*, *The Fluid Boundaries of Suffrage* and *Jim Crow: Staking Claims in the American Heartland*, *Visible Textures* and other books. Her digital work includes “Shut Up In My Bones,” a twenty-first century poem. Similar to her creative process, Hill’s scholarly research is interdisciplinary.



## MICHAEL S. MERRY

VISITING FACULTY FELLOW  
PROFESSOR, SOCIAL AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES  
UNIVERSITY OF AMSTERDAM

Michael S. Merry received a broad education in the humanities in Chicago, Leuven, and New York before earning his doctorate in Philosophy and Educational Policy Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Though he writes on a wide variety of topics, and often through a comparative-international frame, he specializes in any of the following: the various features of educational inequality, both institutional and non-institutional; state paternalism and the ethics of intervention; the politics and epistemology of academic research; the ethics of school choice and school segregation, citizenship and civic education, religion and religious schools, and alternative education in its manifold forms. His most recent book is entitled *Educational Justice: Liberal Ideals, Persistent Inequality and the Constructive Uses of Critique* (2020).



## PATRICIA POWELL

VISITING FACULTY FELLOW  
PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH AND DIRECTOR OF CREATIVE WRITING,  
MILLS COLLEGE AT NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY

Patricia Powell is a writer and healer. She is the author of four novels, including *Me Dying Trial*, *A Small Gathering of Bones* (Beacon Press, 2003), *The Pagoda* (Harcourt, 1999), and *The Fullness of Everything* (Peepal Tree Press, 2009). Excerpts from her novels as well as her short stories have been widely anthologized, and she has lectured and led creative writing workshops in literary venues both nationally and internationally. In 1993, Powell was a finalist for Granta’s Best of Young American Novelists Award. Among other prizes, she is the recipient of a PEN New England Discovery Award, The Publishing Triangle’s Ferro-Grumley Award for fiction, and The Lila-Wallace Reader’s Digest Writers’ Award. Powell’s fifth novel is forthcoming.

# POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWS



## D'ONDRE SWAILS MA'18 PH.D.'22

POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCH ASSOCIATE IN RACE AND ETHNICITY

D'Ondre Swails is an interdisciplinary scholar of Africana Studies specializing in 20th century African American cultural and intellectual history. His research uses a mix of history, political and sociological theory, literary close reading, and cultural analysis to examine the role of myth in the construction, deconstruction, and reconstruction of racial logics in the American context. He is currently working on a book project titled *The Worst of the Race: A Villainous History of Black America*. It highlights the importance of Black America's gangstas, badmen, and criminal dissidents in the making of liberatory struggle since 1877. In Fall 2023, Swails will join Clemson University as an Assistant Professor of History.



## GABRÉELLA FRIDAY

POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCH ASSOCIATE IN RACE AND ETHNICITY

Gabréella Friday completed her Ph.D. in Sociology at Binghamton University in the Spring of 2022. She has worked as a prisoner's rights advocate, community organizer, professor, and researcher. Her dissertation research centered the narratives of incarcerated women in a local jail and how they understood, interacted with, and resisted the time of incarceration. Her areas of specialization include mass incarceration, gender and sexuality studies, time and social theory, and social movements. More generally, she seeks to understand the intersections of race, gender, and time in order to construct a Black feminist understanding of time.



## GRADUATES AND POSTDOCTORAL SCHOLARS AT CSREA

CSREA partners with Brown's Graduate School, peer centers on campus, and faculty advisors to support graduate students from Preview Day to the job market. The Center hosts professionalization workshops focusing on necessary skills like grantwriting, offers grants that support dissertation research, and administers fellowships that broaden research horizons and spur interdisciplinary intellectual connections.

# GRADUATE FELLOWS



**MARIAJOSÉ RODRIGUEZ PLIEGO PH.D.'23**  
GRADUATE SCHOOL INTERDISCIPLINARY OPPORTUNITY FELLOW  
PH.D. CANDIDATE, COMPARATIVE LITERATURE

Mariajosé's dissertation, "Foundational Futures: Nation, Migration and Environment in the Literatures of Abiyala," studies the idea of the nation through the vantage point of Indigenous and Latinx narratives. It brings together a multilingual corpus of stories in Spanish, Nahuatl and English in order to trace connections between storytelling traditions that teach us alternative forms of land ownership and belonging. Her work has been awarded the 2021-2022 Presidential Master's Prize by the American Comparative Literature Association and is forthcoming in the journal *Comparative Literature*. In Fall 2023, she will join Northwestern University as an Assistant Professor of English.



**JONATHON ACOSTA BA'11, MA'16**  
GRADUATE SCHOOL INTERDISCIPLINARY OPPORTUNITY FELLOW  
PH.D. CANDIDATE, SOCIOLOGY

Acosta is a father, educator, Eagle Scout, youth wrestling coach, and doctoral candidate. He was a middle school math teacher in Miami-Dade County and Central Falls before becoming a school administrator. During this time, he earned an MA in Urban Education Policy at Brown and implemented a district-wide teacher evaluation program in cultural competence. Acosta is former City Councilperson representing Ward 1 in Central Falls, Rhode Island where he was a strong voice for green city planning, government transparency, and affordable housing. He is currently the District 16 State Senator. His academic work is in political sociology, social stratification, segregation, race, class, and ethnicity.



# RESEARCH, GRANTS & TEACHING

*CSREA supports scholarly research and artistic practices that explore the most pressing issues concerning race and ethnicity. Through the Center, faculty and advanced students access the funding, skills, and networks that equip them to interrogate injustice, promote equity, and inspire change at the highest levels.*

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# COURSE INNOVATION GRANT

*Course Innovation Grants facilitate the development, revamping, or refocusing of existing courses to more centrally include topics of race, ethnicity, and indigeneity. Since the grant's inception, awardees have built custom experiential learning platforms, hired and trained student researchers, and acquired other key learning supplies as part of ambitious course developments.*



## USING BIG DATA: SOLVING SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROBLEMS

### JOHN FRIEDMAN

BRIGER FAMILY DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR OF ECONOMICS,  
INTERNATIONAL AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

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Professor John Friedman was awarded a Course Innovation Grant for his course, Using Big Data to Solve Social and Economic Problems. His goal was to introduce economics as a powerful tool for understanding and modeling systemic injustice beyond traditional studies of markets and inflation. “Many students didn’t have any sense at the start that quantitative methods and data can be applied to better understand humanistic social questions,” said Professor Friedman of the observations that led him to apply.

Yet, these quantitative methods require complex math—something not all students are prepared to tackle in an introductory course. Using grant funding, Friedman and Course Engineer Moritz Poll, a Ph.D. candidate in Economics, created an online portal to walk students through the intricate computations behind population-level inequity studies, improving course accessibility.

*“We paid special attention to students who might have their minds set on the big social questions of our time, but are intimidated by the prospect of a course heavy in math, statistics, and coding.”*

Throughout the course, students were challenged to choose data sets that resonated with them and dive deeply into details like property values and income. “Much like lab sessions in the sciences, these experiences help students perform their own analysis, rather than just reading about long-established results,” said Poll. After its revamping, the class became one of the most popular departmental offerings and dramatically increased in size for the following semester.



# FACULTY GRANT

*Faculty Grants support the development of intellectual communities and research through exploratory events or working groups. Stretched far by the creativity of their recipients, these funds have inspired impactful conversations, convened exceptional speakers, and made way for new understandings of how race and ethnicity are at work in critical research areas.*



## STRUCTURAL VIOLENCE IN HEALTHCARE: THE ROLE OF THE ACADEMIC INSTITUTION

### DR. RAHUL VANJANI

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF MEDICINE AND CLINICIAN EDUCATOR  
RHODE ISLAND HOSPITAL CENTER FOR PRIMARY CARE

Dr. Vanjani is a primary care physician with board certifications in Internal and Addiction Medicine. His clinical work is based out of the Rhode Island Hospital Center for Primary Care, where Brown University's academic residents are trained in internal medicine. Vanjani's faculty grant project explored the experiences of patients and providers in Academic Health Centers like his own, where the dual goals of training tomorrow's physicians and providing quality care to today's patients are negotiated in tandem.

At the average Academic Health Center, patient populations are overwhelmingly underinsured minorities who face long wait times and poor continuity of care. Trainees and directors report high stress levels and a dearth of resources. Using grant funds, Vanjani convened a panel discussion that invited clinicians, scholars, and advocates to discuss these issues in context and work toward a better solution for patients and providers alike. Now, Vanjani is working to build a clinical program embedded in Amos House that leverages wraparound support and substance use treatment to Rhode Islanders living in poverty.

Event panelists (seated at right) included Dr. M. Catherine Trimbur, Assistant Professor of Medicine at Brown Medicine; Cleo Silvers, organizer of the landmark 1970 Lincoln Hospital takeover and author of the Patient Bill of Rights; Dr. Lisa Biggs, Atwater Assistant Professor of the Arts and Africana Studies; and Dr. Andrea Pitts, Associate Professor of Philosophy at UNC Charlotte.



# FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS: RESEARCH GRANTS

*The Center's graduate student research grants support advanced dissertation projects in the areas of race, ethnicity, and indigeneity. In partnership with a faculty advisor, awardees gain experience preparing funding proposals, executing research plans, and completing comprehensive post-award reports.*

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**KATIE DUARTE** | PH.D. CANDIDATE, SOCIOLOGY

## **Discourses of Natural Hair in Transnational Dominican Communities**

Duarte's research traces understandings of race through the window of hair within transnational Dominican communities. Grant funds were used to travel to New York City to establish connections with salon owners and conduct interviews with women and girls in order to better understand formations of race, culture, and identity.

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**OLIVIA LAFFERTY** | PH.D. CANDIDATE, ENGLISH

## **Vibrant Reading: Listening Across Asian American and Latinx Literatures**

Lafferty examines contemporary literature, poetry, visual art, and photography to understand how minoritized subjects construct narratives amid conditions of physical and emotional displacement. Funding helped develop a listening platform to learn from otherwise unheard narratives and the histories they bear.

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**CHINYERE ODIM** | PH.D. CANDIDATE, SOCIOLOGY

## **The Role of Independent Schools in Making a New Black Elite Class**

Odum's research centers on the experiences and attitudes of "Black elites" in the U.S., toward a more nuanced picture of race in class formation. During the grant period, Odum interviewed Black alumni of elite independent schools to draw connections between histories of coloniality and modern positionings.

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# FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS: PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

*Each year, CSREA offers discipline-specific workshops that encourage dissertation research, foster intellectual community across departments, and support professional development at a critical juncture. These faculty-led sessions build the skills necessary for sustained success in today's competitive job and publishing markets.*



**MARCH 7, 2023**

## **STRATEGIES FOR SUCCESS IN PUBLISHING**

Matthew Guterl

L. Herbert Ballou Professor of American Studies and Africana Studies

**MARCH 16, 2023**

## **TACKLING THE JOB MARKET**

Ella Friday and D'Ondre Swails

Postdoctoral Research Associates in Race and Ethnicity

**APRIL 6, 2023**

## **TEACHING RACE IN THE CLASSROOM**

Andre C. Willis

Associate Professor of Religious Studies

**APRIL 17, 2023**

## **IMPROVING ACADEMIC WRITING**

Austin Jackson

Professor of the Practice of Nonfiction Writing, Department of English

# CORE PROGRAMS

*CSREA's core programs anchor the work that drives our mission forward. Year after year, these offerings attract critical thinkers, highlight cutting-edge scholarship, and establish the Center as a trusted facilitator of transformative conversations and research projects.*

PREA

CENTER FOR  
THE STUDY  
OF RACE  
AND ETHNICITY  
IN AMERICA



# SIGNATURE SPEAKERS

## DR. JEAN SHIM YUN LECTURE IN ASIAN AMERICAN STUDIES

*The Dr. Jean Shim Yun Lecture Series spotlights scholarly research focused on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. Each year, the series invites groundbreaking academics and artists to campus to enrich conversations of race, ethnicity, and identity, particularly in context of the immigrant experience.*

SEPTEMBER 28, 2022

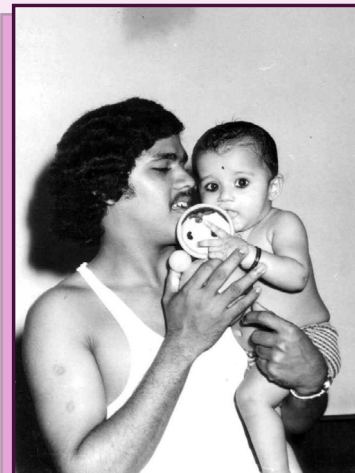
BAKIRATHI MANI



PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH LITERATURE, SWARTHMORE COLLEGE  
2021 CSREA VISITING SCHOLAR IN RACE AND ETHNICITY

Mani's presentation drew from her recent publication, *Unseeing Empire: Photography, Representation, South Asian America*. In *Unseeing Empire*, Mani examines how empire continues to haunt South Asian American visual cultures. Weaving close readings of fine art together with archival research and ethnographic fieldwork across South Asia and North America, Mani outlined relationships between South Asian diasporic artists, their photographic work, and their viewers through personal photos from her childhood and working artists.

Mani noted that the desire for South Asian Americans to see visual representations of themselves is rooted in the use of photography as a form of colonial documentation, offering both validation and surveillance. She examined fine art photography by South Asian diasporic artists like Annu Palakunnathu Matthew who employ aesthetic strategies such as duplication and alteration that run counter to viewers' demands for greater visibility. These works fail to deliver on viewers' desires to see themselves, producing instead feelings of alienation, estrangement, and loss. These feelings, Mani contends, allow viewers to question their own visibility as South Asian Americans in U.S. public culture and to reflect more fully on their desires to be represented.



## THIRD RAIL LECTURE

*As a signature event, the Third Rail Lecture Series aims to address some of the most thorny and contentious social, political, and cultural issues related to race and ethnicity in contemporary society. These accessible public presentations are designed to inform and move public discussion forward.*

MARCH 9, 2023

LINDA VILLAROSA

JOURNALISM PROGRAM DIRECTOR, CITY COLLEGE OF NEW YORK

Villarosa's visit to campus began with a standing-room only workshop with public health students guided by Interim Dean of the School of Public Health, Ron Aubert. Later that day, she arrived at Pembroke Hall for the keynote presentation—a sweeping overview of the research behind her New York Times bestselling book, *Under the Skin: The Hidden Toll of Racism on American Lives and on the Health of Our Nation*, as told through the story arc of her own family.

*Under the Skin* lays bare the forces in American society that cause Black people to “live sicker and die quicker” compared to their white counterparts. Today's medical texts and instruments still carry fallacious slavery-era assumptions that Black bodies are fundamentally different from white bodies. Study after study shows worse medical treatment and outcomes for Black patients. Black people live in more polluted communities due to environmental racism and neglect from all levels of government. And, most powerfully, Villarosa described new research by Dr. Arlene Geronimus detailing how coping with the daily scourge of racism ages Black people prematurely.

To close the event, CSREA Faculty Fellow Madina Agénor moderated a lively Q&A discussion with event attendees that spanned personal experiences with cancer care, observations about the way health disparities are portrayed in the media, and inspiring ideas for paths forward.





2022-2023

IMAGINING SOCIAL JUSTICE ART EXHIBIT

# SOLIDARITY

Funded by the Mellon Foundation, the Imagining Social Justice Art Exhibit collects expressions of the varied experiences of race and ethnicity present in American society and the harmonies, tensions, and questions that arise in their interactions.

This year's exhibition, organized under the theme *Solidarity*, included a collection of 29 artworks: photography by Alun Be of Senegal and Lucy Dahl of Martha's Vineyard, video art by Josué Rivas, screenprints by Chip Thomas, and many more. Across a wide variety of media, the collection depicts allyship across diverse, intersectional identities and invites us to reflect upon all that has brought us to this present moment. During its 12-month run, the exhibit was visited by hundreds of community members in open gallery hours and served as a conversation catalyst for discussions of race, ethnicity, and indigeneity on campus and beyond.

As our collection grows, new additions inspire us to plumb our reserves of hope, connectivity, and community as we collectively strive to build a more just and peaceful world.

## FEATURED ARTWORKS (CLOCKWISE)

**Lucy Dahl**  
Polar Bears, 2021  
Archival inkjet print

**Jess X. Snow**  
L'eau Est La Vie, 2020  
Hand-pulled screenprint

**João Incerti**  
The Fragility, 2021  
Archival inkjet print



*It takes imagination to migrate.  
To bring a family across borders.  
To fall in love.  
To heal from trauma.  
To start a revolution.  
To tell our stories.*

*Imagination is holding the seed, and  
dreaming of the forest it can become long  
before it springs it's first roots.*

*I believe the stories we tell determine the  
futures we will live in.*

*Vulnerability is a tool for resistance.  
Art is a portal to futures that  
we have been denied.*

*The world on the other side is determined  
by the seeds we plant today.*

ARTIST'S STATEMENT,  
JESS X. SNOW



# WHAT I AM THINKING ABOUT NOW

*The longstanding WITAN series provides space for scholars to workshop recent publications and work in progress. Presenters test ideas and receive feedback toward the development of new contributions to the field.*

OCTOBER 17, 2022

## MALINCHE OR MALINTZIN? INDIGENOUS AND LATINX RECONSTRUCTIONS OF THE COLONIAL-ERA INTERPRETER

MARIAJOSE RODRIGUEZ-PLIEGO PH.D. '23

CSREA Interdisciplinary Opportunity Fellow, Ph.D. Candidate in Comparative Literature

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This talk argued that an ongoing wave of contemporary Indigenous reconstructions of La Malinche lays bare the racial and gender hierarchies upon which the Mexican and Chicano ideals of nationhood were established.

OCTOBER 24, 2022

## MY5: JOY THROUGH CIVIC PARTICIPATION

KIKI NYAGAH

Industrial Design Student and Community Organizer, Rhode Island School of Design

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This exploratory talk centered MY5—a civic participation initiative working to raise a new generation of cultural leaders and curious citizens who harness art to arbitrate change. MY-5 generates events and installations that ask--what inspires you to participate?

OCTOBER 31, 2022

## BLACK WITNESSING: COSTS, IMPERATIVES, AND POSSIBILITIES

DAMALI BRITTON

Ph.D. Candidate, Political Science

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This talk examined Elizabeth Alexander's "Can You Be BLACK and Look At This?" With Alexander, Britton conceptualized witnessing as a kind of care work and theorized about its capacity to anticipate alternative social worlds.

NOVEMBER 7, 2022

## MAKING MOSS ON THE MOUNTAIN: LITERARY PRACTICE IN THE 21ST CENTURY

DAMARIS B. HILL

CSREA Visiting Faculty Fellow

Professor of Creative Writing, English, and African American Studies, University of Kentucky

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Dr. Hill read from Moss on the Mountain, a coming-of-age story in the form of an epic poem that explores the effects of incarceration on young women. Hill discussed her use of digital archives, and how they inform how we "know" Black women in American culture.

DECEMBER 5, 2022

## MEDICAL NEGLECT IN JAIL: TIME, HEALTH, AND PROXIMITY TO DEATH

GABRÉELLA FRIDAY

CSREA Postdoctoral Associate in Race and Ethnicity

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This presentation discussed how institutional negligence places imprisoned people, who often already have at least one preexisting health condition, at greater risk for health complications, including death, through extended waiting periods and other failures.

DECEMBER 12, 2022

## TRIBAL COLLEGES AND THE ELUSIVE QUEST FOR SELF-DETERMINATION

MICHAEL MERRY

CSREA Visiting Faculty Fellow; Professor, University of Amsterdam College of Social and Behavioural Sciences

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Merry discussed the state of Tribal Colleges and Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), as the institutions grow toward self-determination in key areas.

FEBRUARY 27, 2023

## HEALING THE TRAUMAS OF SLAVERY: REMOVING THE SLAVE SHIP FROM THE BODY

PATRICIA POWELL

CSREA Visiting Faculty Fellow; Professor of English, Mills College at Northeastern University

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This talk was about the ways in which the Middle Passage lives inside us still, the symptoms that experience exhibits, and how to think about a protocol to bring healing. It took the form of a guided meditation and active embodiment of historical imagining.

MARCH 6, 2023

## WRITING FACTS INTO FICTION

GRACE TALUSAN

Lecturer in English

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What ethical obligations does a fiction writer have to historical and factual accuracy? Talusan read from a novel in progress based on a real event that occurred in a Filipino immigrant community on Cape Cod.

MARCH 20, 2023

## NEW IMMIGRANTS IN LOCAL POLITICS

JONATHON ACOSTA BA'11, MA'16

CSREA Interdisciplinary Opportunity Fellow, Ph.D. Candidate in Sociology

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In this talk, Acosta discussed how contemporary waves of migrants have captured local political power in a postindustrial New England community. He applied a political demography lens to understand the rise of a pan ethnic Latinx political majority.

APRIL 17, 2023

## HOW ALGORITHMS NEED TO SEE RACE NOW

SURESH VENKATASUBRAMANIAN

Professor of Data Science and Computer Science

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This talk centered the paradox at the heart of algorithmic decision making--both algorithms that make use of information about race and those that ignore it reify and amplify historical inequities and power disparities.

APRIL 24, 2023

## IMMIGRATION POLITICS AND THE METASTASIS OF THE US SECURITY STATE

RICHARD BALDOZ

Associate Professor of American Studies

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This talk explored the entanglement of U.S. immigration policy and national security imperatives during the early decades of the Cold War. Baldoz examined how the state has been reimagined to administer both internal and external security threats.

# EVENTS & SYMPOSIA

*Each year, the Center presents a slate of events and symposia that bring celebrated scholars to campus and introduce new ways of understanding how race and ethnicity shape society.*

*Large and small, virtual and in-person, these events respond to the current moment while building foundational knowledge.*



# UNDER THE SKIN

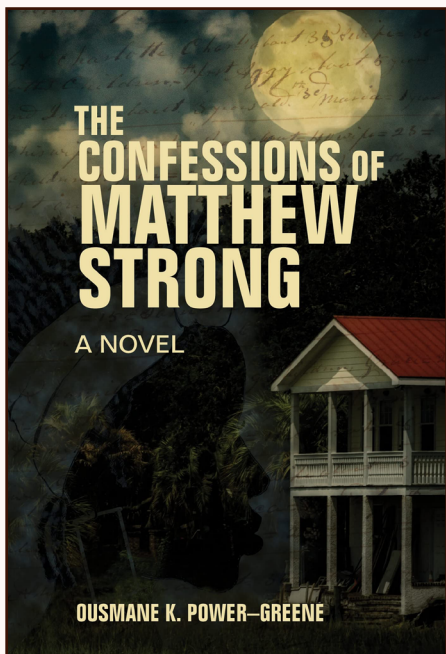
JILL LARROSA

THE HIDDEN TOLL OF AMERICAN IMMIGRATION ON THE FUTURE OF OUR NATION

# NEW BOOK TALKS

OCTOBER 6, 2022

## THE CONFESSIONS OF MATTHEW STRONG



### OUSMANE POWER-GREENE

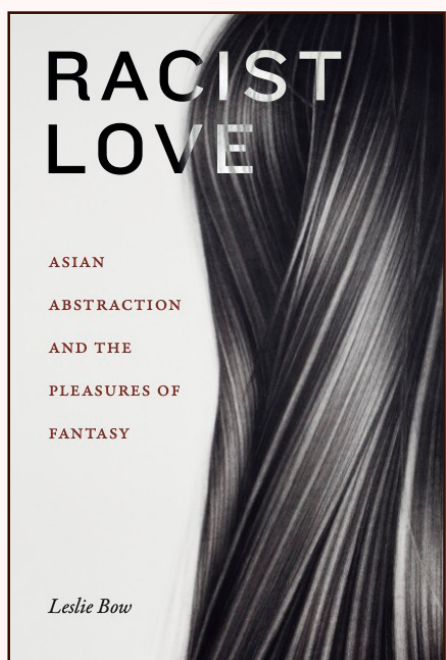
Associate Professor of History,  
Program Director of Africana Studies, Clark University

*Moderated by Kevin Quashie, Professor of English  
Brown University*

*The Confessions of Matthew Strong*, Ousmane Power-Greene's wildly original, incendiary story about race and redemption chronicles the life of Allegra Douglass, a professor at a top-tier university. When assembling evidence of the disappearances of young Black women, Allie herself disappears, kidnapped by white supremacist Matthew Strong. The story explores the dangerous imbalances that continue to destabilize society, and the value of speaking out for what's right.

OCTOBER 27, 2022

## RACIST LOVE: ASIAN ABSTRACTION AND THE PLEASURES OF FANTASY



### LESLIE BOW

Vilas Distinguished Achievement Professor of Asian-American  
Studies and English, University of Wisconsin-Madison

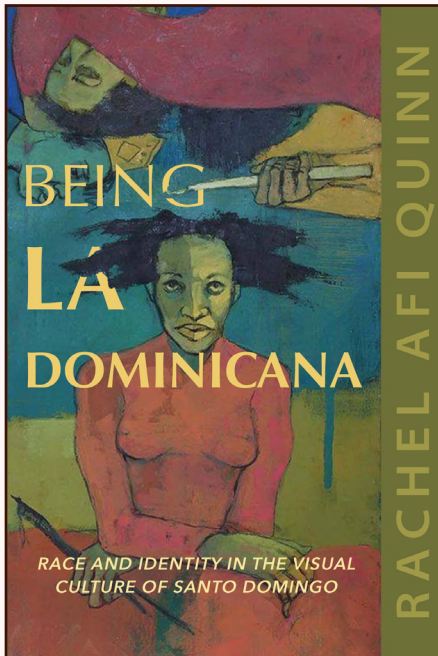
*Moderated by Erica Kanesaka, Assistant Professor of English,  
Emory University*

In *Racist Love*, Leslie Bow traces how Asian Americans become objects of anxiety and desire. Conceptualizing these feelings as “racist love,” she explores how race is abstracted and projected onto Asianized objects. Bow shows how anthropomorphic objects and images such as children's cartoons, décor, and AI robots function as repositories of seemingly positive feelings and attachment to Asianness. At the same time, Bow demonstrates that these Asianized proxies reveal how fetishistic attraction serves as a source of anti-Asian bias and violence.

The New Book Talks series highlights new and notable work from authors internal and external to Brown. The aim is to facilitate thought-provoking and critical engagement with emerging scholarship that helps us understand how we study, research, and engage with analyses of race, ethnicity, and indigeneity.

NOVEMBER 17, 2022

## BEING LA DOMINICANA: RACE AND IDENTITY IN SANTO DOMINGO



### RACHEL AFI QUINN

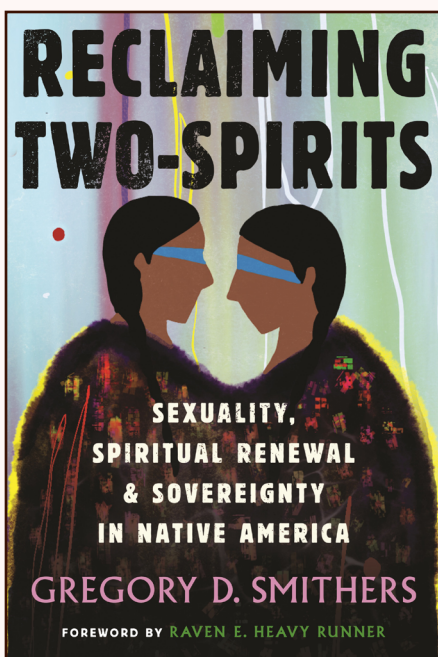
Associate Professor, Department of Comparative Cultural Studies and Women's, Gender & Sexuality Studies, University of Houston

Moderated by Stéphanie Larrieux, Acting Director, Center for the Study of Race and Ethnicity in America

In *Being La Dominicana*, Rachel Afi Quinn investigates the ways Dominican visual culture portrays Dominican women and how women represent themselves in their own creative endeavors in response to existing stereotypes. Delving into the uniquely racialized gendered experiences of women in Santo Domingo, Quinn reveals how racial ambiguity and color hierarchies work to shape experiences of identity and subjectivity in the Dominican Republic.

DECEMBER 8, 2022

## RECLAIMING TWO SPIRITS: SEXUALITY, SPIRITUALITY, & SOVEREIGNTY



### GREGORY SMITHERS

Professor of American History, Eminent Scholar in the College of Humanities and Sciences, Virginia Commonwealth University

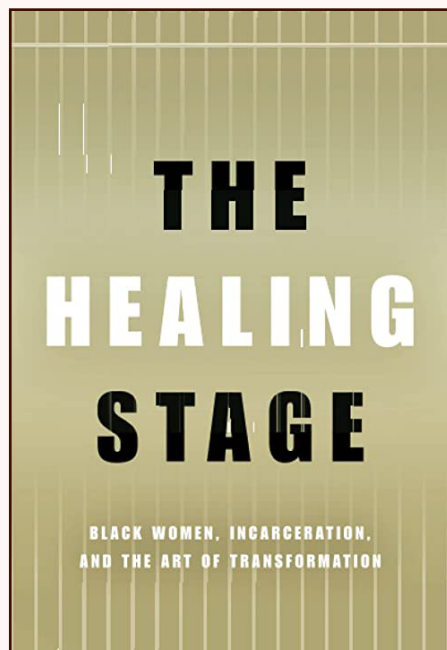
Moderated by Andrés López, Assistant Professor of Indigenous and Canadian Studies, Carleton University

Before 1492, Indigenous communities across North America included people who identified as neither male nor female, but both. After European colonizers invaded, centuries of systematic persecution followed, imperiling the existence of Two-Spirits, an umbrella term denoting feminine and masculine qualities in one person. *Reclaiming Two-Spirits* reveals how colonizers used language to erase Two-Spirit people from history, while amplifying Two-Spirit voices, reconnecting their histories to Native nations in the 21st century.

# NEW BOOK TALKS

FEBRUARY 23, 2023

## THE HEALING STAGE: THE ART OF TRANSFORMATION



### LISA BIGGS

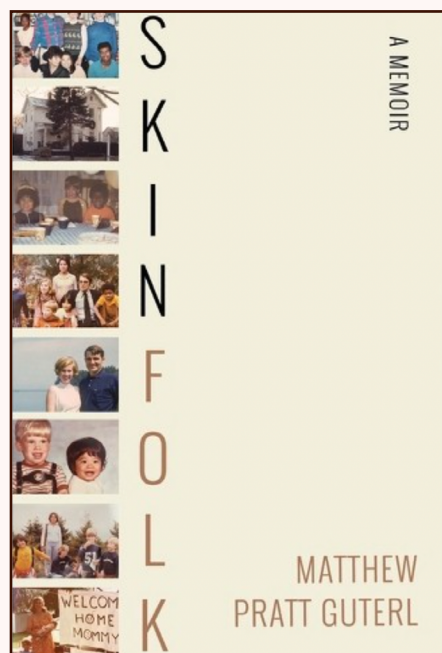
John Atwater and Diana Nelson Assistant Professor of the Arts and Africana Studies, Brown University

*Moderated by Noliwe Rooks,  
L. Herbert Ballou Professor and Chair of Africana Studies*

In *The Healing Stage*, Lisa Biggs reveals how four ensembles of currently and formerly incarcerated women use theater to challenge harmful policies and discourses that justify locking up “bad” women. The work illustrates how Black feminist cultural traditions—performance, storytelling, poetry, humor, and protest—encourage individual and collective repair that exceeds state definitions of rehabilitation. These case studies offer powerful examples of how the labor of incarcerated Black women artists radically extends our knowledge of what is required to resolve human conflicts and protect women’s lives.

APRIL 6, 2023

## SKINFOLK: A MEMOIR



### MATTHEW PRATT GUTERL

L. Herbert Ballou University Professor of American Studies and Africana Studies, Brown University

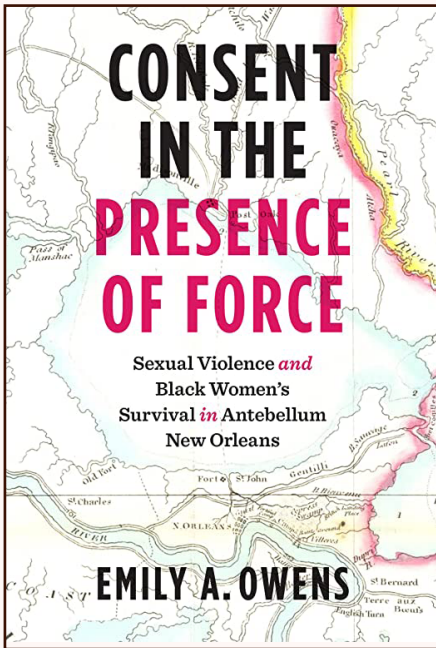
*Moderated by Tricia Rose,  
Center Director and Chancellor’s Professor of Africana Studies*

*Skinfolk* is a haunting, poignant story of growing up in a mixed-race family in 1970’s New Jersey that exposes the joys and constraints of love, blood, and belonging, and the persistent river of racial violence in America, past and present. Matthew Pratt Guterl, one of the children, narrates a family saga of astonishing originality, in which even the best intentions would prove woefully inadequate. Chronicling both the humor and pathos of this experiment, he “opens a door to our dreams of what the idea of family might make possible.”



APRIL 27, 2023

## CONSENT IN THE PRESENCE OF FORCE



### EMILY A. OWENS

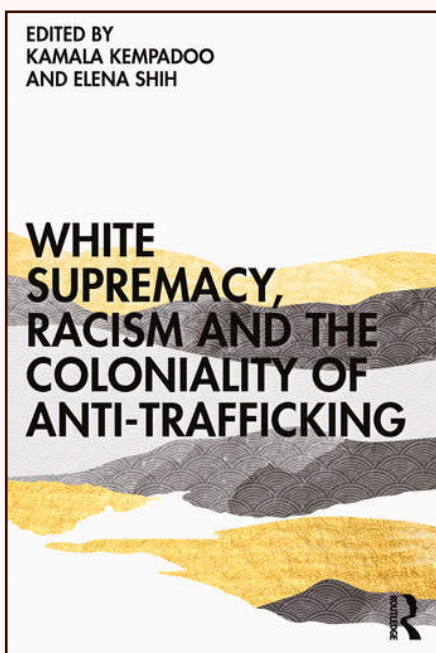
David and Michelle Ebersman Assistant Professor of History  
Brown University

*Moderated by Juliet Hooker, Royce Family Professor of Teaching  
Excellence in Political Science*

In histories of enslavement and in Black women's history, coercion looms large in any discussion of sex and sexuality. At a time when sexual violence against Black women was virtually unregulated—even normalized—a vast economy developed specifically to sell the sexual labor of Black women. In this vividly rendered book, Emily A. Owens wrestles with the question of why white men paid notoriously high prices to gain sexual access to the bodies of enslaved women to whom they already had legal and social access.

MAY 4, 2023

## WHITE SUPREMACY, RACISM AND THE COLONIALITY OF ANTI-TRAFFICKING



### ELENA SHIH

Manning Assistant Professor of American Studies  
and Ethnic Studies, Brown University

*Moderated by Yin Q, American Studies Artist in Resident,  
Organizer, Red Canary Song*

Recent arguments have suggested that racism is vital to the success of contemporary anti-trafficking discourses and movements. In *White Supremacy, Racism and the Coloniality of Anti-Trafficking*, the contributors offer recent scholarship grounded in critical anti-racist perspectives that reveal the historical and contemporary racial workings of anti-trafficking discourses and practices globally—and how these intersect with gender, citizenship, sexuality, class formations, and the global political economy.

# LIBERATORY LETTERS: LANGUAGE AS RESISTANCE

DECEMBER 1, 2023

This roundtable conversation explored the confluence of race, ethnicity, linguistics, and culture in order to better understand the acts of expression and resistance that characterize the practice and preservation of language. The four featured panelists brought deep knowledge of the histories and contemporary teachings of Haitian Creole, Asian-American raciolinguistics, ongoing revitalization of indigenous languages, and Black American Sign Language. Languages were presented as both living records and catalysts of change within racial and ethnic communities that serve as crucial sites of reclamation, reconnection, and revitalization.

This event took place as part of the Race at the Center of the Humanities initiative, organized under the Centering Race Consortium grant. It aims to convene conversations of scholars who are considering interdisciplinary approaches to humanistic problems.



*If you live in America  
and you are an indigenous  
person, the very survival of  
your language is an act of  
resistance.*

*It is overcoming  
annihilation.*

X'UNEI LANCE TWITCHELL





**JOSEPH HILL**

Associate Director, Center on Culture and Language,  
Associate Professor, Department of ASL and Interpreting Education,  
National Technical Institutes for the Deaf at Rochester Institute of Technology



**X'UNEI LANCE TWITCHELL**

Professor of Alaska Native Languages,  
University of Alaska Southeast



**ADRIENNE LO**

Associate Professor of Anthropology  
University of Waterloo



**JACQUES PIERRE**

Lecturing Fellow of Romance Studies  
Duke University



**PAJA FAUDREE | MODERATOR**

Associate Professor of Anthropology  
Brown University



*There is a constant linguistic dance between expectations of gaining fluency in English while maintaining heritage languages.*

*Speakers are expected to keep cultural ties but not their accents.*

**ADRIENNE LO**

# EQUILIBRIUM: CONVERSATIONS IN STEM

MARCH 2, 2023

The Equilibrium Discussion Series invites scholars whose work examines the intersections of race and STEM fields—science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. Speakers consider topics like algorithmic bias, the built environment, and medical science through the lens of race and ethnicity, with an eye toward possibilities for creating a more just world.

The inaugural Equilibrium event featured Kalindi Vora and Neda Atanasoski, the authors of *Surrogate Humanity: Race, Robots, and the Politics of Technological Futures*. Their talk traced the ways in which robots, artificial intelligence, and other technologies serve as surrogates for human workers within a labor system entrenched in racial capitalism and patriarchy. As these technologies advance in their aim to integrate seamlessly into human life, they also reify narrow understandings of what those human lives look like.



## **KALINDI VORA (TOP LEFT)**

Professor of Ethnicity, Race, and Migration, and Women's, Gender & Sexuality Studies, Yale University

## **NEDA ATANASOSKI (TOP RIGHT)**

Professor and Chair, Harriet Tubman Department of Women, Gender, & Sexuality, University of Maryland, College Park

## **SURESH VENKATASUBRAMANIAN | MODERATOR**

Professor of Data Science and Computer Science  
Brown University



# PASS THE MIC: NEW DIRECTIONS IN POETICS



MARCH 16, 2023

Pass the Mic showcased the work of poets at Brown as they grapple with broad questions of race, ethnicity, and indigeneity in their writing. Poets performed recent work, discussed creative processes, and imagined poetics as a transformative and capacious site for expression.



## ERICA HUNT

Bonderman Professor of Literary Arts  
Brown University



## MATTHEW SHENODA

Professor and Chair, Literary Arts  
Brown University



## MARY-KIM ARNOLD

Assistant Dean for Equity & Inclusion  
Vermont College of Fine Arts



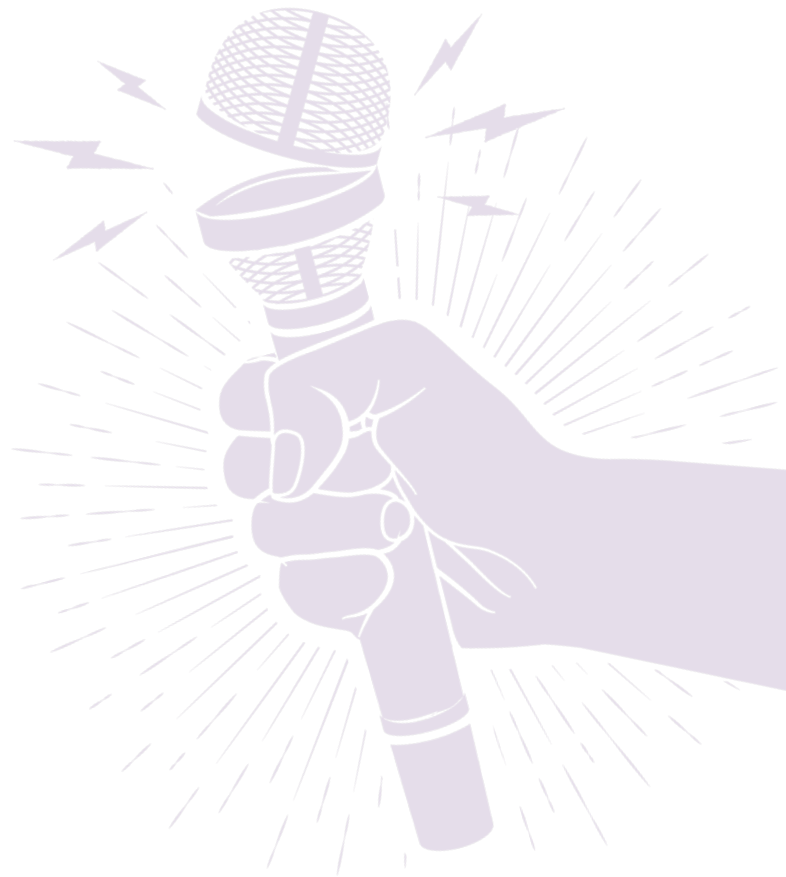
## ENONGO LUMUMBA KASONGO

David S. Josephson Assistant Professor of Music  
Brown University



## LISA BIGGS | MODERATOR

John Atwater and Diana Nelson Associate Professor of the Arts and Africana Studies  
Brown University



# CRITICAL CONVERSATIONS

*Critical Conversations, one of CSREA's signature discussion series, invites scholars to explore a central topic through the lens of race. Events in this series have covered issues spanning key topics like public health and education.*

NOVEMBER 16, 2022

## RACE, DISABILITY, AND ACCESSIBILITY

At the intersections of marginalized identities, overlapping injustices show themselves to be roots of the same tree. In this roundtable discussion presented in partnership with the Disability Studies Working Group at the Cogut Institute for Humanities, discussants reflected on the nuanced complexities of how issues of disability, accessibility, and race coalesce in society.



### EMILY LIM ROGERS

Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow in Disability Studies, Cogut Institute for the Humanities  
Brown University

### LEON HILTON

Assistant Professor of Theatre Arts and Performance Studies  
Brown University

### JINA B. KIM

Fall 2021 CSREA Visiting Faculty Fellow, Assistant Professor of English Language and Literature and Study of Women & Gender  
Smith College

### SONY CORÁÑEZ BOLTON

Assistant Professor of Spanish, Latinx, and Latin American Studies  
Amherst College





APRIL 20, 2023

## ENVIRONMENTAL RACISM AND CLIMATE JUSTICE

This Earth Day event gathered scholars of environmental justice to discuss the uneven burdens presented by climate change, linkages between race and urban policy, and how communities are resisting the effects of extractive capitalism. Each speaker presented their ongoing research with a particular focus on policy recommendations and actionable changes.



### GWENDOLYN PURIFOYE

Fall 2021 CSREA Faculty Fellow, Assistant Professor of Racial Justice and Conflict Transformation  
Keough School of Global Affairs, University of Notre Dame

### MYLES LENNON

Dean's Assistant Professor of Environment and Society and Anthropology, Institute at Brown for Environment and Society  
Brown University

### GERALD TORRES

Professor of Environmental Justice and Professor of Law, Yale School of Environment  
Yale University

### ELIZABETH RUSH

Assistant Professor of the Practice of English, Fellow, Institute at Brown for Environment and Society  
Brown University



# OUR PARTNERS

*CSREA works collaboratively with partner departments on campus and peer centers at other institutions to increase reach and capacity.*

*Whether the Center is leading or supporting, these relationships inspire, challenge, and motivate us to design more effective initiatives, amplify new voices, and contribute to broader conversations.*





# CENTERING RACE CONSORTIUM

*Formed in 2020, The Centering Race Consortium is a partnership sponsored by the Mellon Foundation that focuses on the study of race in the arts and humanities through a combination of research and artistic practice. The four member Centers (Brown, Stanford, Yale and the University of Chicago) collaborate to produce events, sponsor fellowships, and support research across disciplines on their campuses and in their communities.*

JANUARY 27-28, 2023

## RACE AND THE SPECULATIVE CONFERENCE

The Center for Comparative Studies in Race and Ethnicity (CCSRE) at Stanford University hosted this year's Centering Race Consortium conference—Race and the Speculative.

The theme was developed in response to ongoing racial violence and intensifications of racialized political discourses. It asked, how do we best organize our communities, institutions, and societies in light of what we know and where we want to be? Invited panelists dove deeply into the ways that the speculative offers pathways to alternative futures, new and necessary kinds of solidarity, and daring visions of tomorrow.

### "UNSETTLING 'DECOLONIZATION' IN THE BIPOC LAND STEWARDSHIP MOVEMENT



#### MYLES LENNON

Dean's Assistant Professor of Environment and Society and Anthropology, Brown University

Lennon's scholarly and teaching interests include the anthropology of energy, environmental intersectionality and the co-production of race and nature, multispecies ethnography, climate justice and environmental justice, science and technology studies, affect theory, and the epistemological politics of climate mitigation efforts.

### APOCALYPTIC RELATIVITY: CATASTROPHE AND THE FAULT LINES OF HISTORY VIA N.K. JEMISIN



#### KIANA MURPHY

Assistant Professor of American Studies, Brown University

Murphy's creative and scholarly work bridges the intellectual traditions of Black speculative aesthetics, Black girlhood studies, Black feminism, visual cultures, and Black women writers' archives. She was a 2022-2023 Huntington Library Mellon Fellow researching in the Octavia Butler archives, and her work is published or forthcoming in the Black Scholar, American Quarterly, and elsewhere.



APRIL 11 - 12, 2023

## SPRING CAPSTONE CONFERENCE

During the Spring Capstone conference, CSREA convened its Artistic Practitioner Fellows for a gathering on Brown's campus. After a semester of virtual meetings, the Fellows gathered together in-person to reflect on the development of their ongoing projects. How have they evolved since the beginning, and what would they need to make the final steps?

A generative keynote presentation by photographer Annu Palakunnathu Matthew offered reflections from her recent book, *Answers Take Time*, in which she considers how conditional factors like geography, time, archive, and migration affect the images we make of one another and ourselves.

The next day, the cohort traveled to Yale University to meet with their counterparts from the other Centering Race Consortium schools, including the Yale, University of Chicago, and Stanford.

There, fellows from each university presented on mixed panels organized to highlight how central issues of identity can be critically approached across medium, and what the overlaps between these multifaceted perspectives reveal.



### ANNU PALAKUNNATHU MATTHEW PROFESSOR OF ART, UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND

Matthew's photo-based work draws on old photographs to reexamine historical narratives in both the US and South Asia. Her work increasingly makes use of the ever-expanding digital toolbox, and the result is a blend of still and moving imagery that shifts the viewer's perspective to question established and marginalized histories.

Matthew investigates identities she exists within, and outside of, finding ways to inhabit others' stories so that they are heard and seen. Probing the impact of America's dual position as colony and colonizer, her work expands what is considered to be American history in the country she now calls home.

# CO-SPONSORED EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 22, 2022

## PEMBROKE CENTER



### What Next? Reproductive Justice in a Post-Roe Nation

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On June 13, 2022, the right to abortion as guaranteed by the 1973 Roe V. Wade decision suddenly came to an end. This conversation focused on activist efforts for reproductive justice prior to, during, and after Roe, and what reproductive advocacy can learn from other struggles for equity. Panelists included Sara Matthiesen of George Washington University, Zakiya Luna of Washington University in St. Louis, and Sarah Williams, Louise Lamphere Visiting Assistant Professor of Anthropology and Gender Studies of Brown.

SEPTEMBER 27, 2022

## OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

### Thinking Out Loud Luncheon Series

#### Nadya Mason: The Disappearing Chip, How Quantum Nano-Electronics Disrupts Our Lives

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Nadya Mason, Rosalyn S. Yalow Professor of Physics at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign discussed the science and research behind new approaches in quantum mechanics as they relate to nano-electronic elements, key components of vital machines from washing machines to cars. In addition to a public lecture, Mason visited CSREA for a luncheon with STEM students to discuss her experience as a woman of color in her field and offer advice for entering and thriving in related disciplines.

OCTOBER 18, 2022

## DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY

### Turning Field Work into a Visual Experience:

#### Where Visual Ethnography and Filmmaking Meet

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Raúl Paz-Pastrana is a Mexican immigrant filmmaker, cinematographer, and multimedia creator. His work intersects contemporary art, political documentary, and visual ethnography to explore themes of belonging, alienation, and the concept of “home.” In this colloquium event, Paz-Pastrana discussed the ethnographic process behind his filmmaking and his experiences in the field.

OCTOBER 20, 2022

## OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

### Thinking Out Loud Luncheon Series

#### Joel Ducoste: The Invisible Machines Doing All the Learning

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Joel Ducoste, Professor in the Civil, Construction and Environmental Engineering Department at North Carolina State University, spoke on the research challenges posed by machine learning through the lens of environmental concerns. As data-driven predictive models are increasingly applied to civil functions like water treatment and waste management, Ducoste considered how these technologies affect efforts to understand the natural world and motivate future STEM problem-solvers. In addition to a public lecture, Ducoste visited CSREA for a student luncheon to offer advice for entering and thriving in STEM disciplines.

NOVEMBER 11-12, 2022

## PEMBROKE CENTER

### The Nicknames of Distortion: A Hortense Spillers Symposium

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In 2019, renowned American literary critic and Black feminist scholar Hortense Spillers donated her papers to the Pembroke Center's Feminist Theory Archive in the name of her Black Feminist Theory Project. This symposium was a celebration of the collection and brought together graduate students, early-career and independent scholars to study and discuss Spillers's contributions to intellectual and pedagogical practices in the fields of Black feminist criticism, literary studies, and cultural studies, among others.

DECEMBER 6, 2022

## ANNENBERG INSTITUTE FOR SCHOOL REFORM

### Bernard Fain Lecture:

### John B. King, The Role of Education in Protecting our Democracy

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Recent events—from growing inequality to the events of January 6, 2021—are challenging our democracy more than at any point in the past five years. And while civic and political participation will help with these problems today, the real roots of our democracy—and the path to protecting it in the long run—lie in education. John B. King, former US Secretary of Education, discusses this critical role of education and what we can do to strengthen it.

FEBRUARY 23, 2023

## ANNENBERG CENTER OF WORK ON RACE AND EDUCATION

### Critical Race Theory and the Interest Divergence Dilemma: Why it Matters and Why You Should Care

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Dr. Victor Ray, F. Wendell Miller Associate Professor of Sociology and Criminology and African American Studies at the University of Iowa draws on two central critical race theory concepts—racial progress narratives and interest convergence to explain the current backlash. In opposition to mainstream notion of inevitable progress, critical race theorists see racial progress as fragile and contingent. Some political actors are pushing the United States toward a period of interest divergence—as some white Americans increasingly see their interests as fundamentally different from those of their nonwhite fellow citizens.

2022-2023 ACADEMIC YEAR

## SOUTHEAST ASIAN STUDIES INITIATIVE, WATSON INSTITUTE

### Spaces in Between: Southeast Asia in Flux

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“Spaces in Between: Southeast Asia in Flux” is a 5-part speaker series meant to promote the study of Southeast Asia and its diasporas while also highlighting the connection to faculty and Brown. Invited speakers included Professor Ardeth Maung Thawngmung; Elena Shih, Professor Adrian De Leon and Professor Vicente Rafael, Professor of American Studies Rick Baldoz, Lily Song and urban planner John Taylor, Urban Studies lecturer Lauren Yapp. The series concluded with a roundtable discussion with Brown University professors on the future of Southeast Asian Studies.

# CENTER STAFF



**STÉPHANIE LARRIEUX**  
Acting Director



**TRAE ALSTON-SWAN**  
Center Manager



**ELLIE WINTER**  
Communications Specialist



**MAGGIE MURPHY**  
Program Coordinator



**TRICIA ROSE**  
Center Director  
Chancellor's Professor of Africana Studies  
Associate Dean of the Faculty for Special Initiatives  
*On Sabbatical for Academic Year 2022-2023*

# FACULTY ADVISORY BOARD



## MATTHEW PRATT GUTERL

L. Herbert Ballou University Professor of Africana Studies and American Studies

Guterl is a historian of race and nation, with a focus on US history from the Civil War to the present. He has written four books, including *Seeing Race in America* and *Josephine Baker and the Rainbow Tribe*. Right now, he is working on a global biography of the queer human rights activist, Roger Casement, and a book on class-passing, cross-dressing, and race-passing. He has been awarded fellowships from the National Museum of American History, Yale University, Rice University, and others.



## AVERY WILLIS HOFFMAN

Inaugural Artistic Director, Brown Arts Initiative

Professor of the Practice, Theatre Arts and Performance Studies and Classics

A writer, artistic director, creative producer and curator of public programs, Hoffman joined Brown University in 2020. In her recent role as inaugural Program Director at Park Avenue Armory in New York, Avery curated and produced innovative and diverse public programming initiatives, including numerous large- and intimate-scale cultural events.



## BONNIE HONIG

Nancy Duke Lewis Professor, Modern Culture and Media and Political Science

A 2023 recipient of the Guggenheim Fellowship, Honig works in political, feminist, and queer theory, immigration politics, as well as film, classical, literary, legal, and cultural studies. Also affiliated with the American Bar Foundation, Honig's current project, *Doing Things with Words: Virality and Performativity in Democratic and Queer Theory*, draws on ordinary language philosophy, legal studies, and queer theory debates from the 90's, to consider the politics of sexual/racial minoritization.



## NOLIWE ROOKS

L. Herbert Ballou University Professor and Chair, Africana Studies

Rooks' work explores how race and gender both impact and are impacted by popular culture, social history and political life in the US. The author of four books and numerous articles and essays, Rooks has received funding from the Ford Foundation, the Mellon Foundation and the Woodrow Wilson Foundation among others. Her most recent book, in which she coined the term "segrenomics," is *Cutting School: Privatization, Segregation, and the End of Public Education*.

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