



POTENTIALITIES OF JUSTICE:
TOWARD COLLECTIVE REPARATIVE FUTURES

SAWYER SEMINAR AT RUTGERS-NEWARK

AFTERMATHS OF WAR

MEMORY AND HISTORIES FOR THE FUTURE

Tuesday, November 12, 2024 | 1:30 PM – 7:00 PM
Newark Express, 54 Halsey Street, Room 213, Second Floor, Newark, NJ



This event was made possible by the Mellon Foundation. Many thanks to our co-sponsors for their additional support.

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AFTERMATHS OF WAR: MEMORY AND HISTORIES FOR THE FUTURE

Tuesday, November 12, 2024

1:30 PM – 5:30 PM

Express Newark, 54 Halsey Street, rm 213, Newark, NJ

LUNCH AND LEARN WITH INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

1:30 PM – 2:00 PM

Welcome Remarks by Mayte Green–Mercado

SHORT DOCUMENTARY SCREENING

Historias para lo que viene (Newest Americans)

2:00 PM – 2:30 PM

METHODOLOGY TEACH-IN

2:30 PM – 3:50 PM

Presenter: Dr. Catalina Muñoz, Associate Professor of History,
Universidad de los Andes, Colombia

COFFEE AND TEA BREAK

3:50 PM – 4:00 PM

KEYNOTE CONVERSATION

Histories for the Future: Critical Conversations on Reparative Practices

4:00 PM – 5:30 PM

Presenters: Gary Wilder, Professor of Anthropology and director of the Committee on Globalization and Social Change, CUNY Graduate Center and Dr. Catalina Muñoz, Associate Professor of History, Universidad de los Andes, Colombia, **Moderator:** Liz Sevcenko

LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We acknowledge and honor that Rutgers University-Newark is located on the ancestral lands of the still living, still sovereign Munsee Lunaape (lunaa-pay) peoples, communities, and nation. We recognize, as well, the many and diverse Native American/Indigenous peoples who call this region home—past, present, and future. And we acknowledge that these same ancient, alive and biodiverse lands have been the site of colonial violence, extreme extraction of what had been living, and occupation—dispossessing, enslaving, and impacting the lives of all to this very day. This includes the world of wiping out whole living ecosystems alive with networks of fungi working with the roots of forests, krill in balance with sea life larger and smaller, and clean air, soils, and waters that regenerated the bounty of our region which was also tended by Indigenous people.

When Robert Treat and Reverend Abraham Peirson led their band of Anglo-American Connecticut Puritans to the Passaic River shoreline (just below today's NJPAC), Reverend Abraham Pierson decided to name this purchased property New Ark and he established the First Church of Newark. To this day historians claim they were founders of Newark in 1666. What's not told is the story of ongoing massacres and land grabs that forced this 1666 "purchase." Nor is it told, that from 1675–1676, Treat was the Commander in Chief of the British Colonial forces that waged war on the Narragansetts in Connecticut and Rhode Island.

Although such land sales technically allowed the Munsee Lunaapes to continue land and water access for foraging and usage, those rights were increasingly disallowed. The Anglo-American values of massive land ownership and hyper-extractivist industrialization led to the rapid pollution of the pristine waters of the Passaic River Watershed Basin. Public waters became the dumping grounds of private waste, sacrificing public well-being and the biodiversity of the wetlands. It is with this true historical understanding in our hearts and soul, we now seek a return to Indigenous Local Knowledge (ILK). This intimate, ecological understanding is key to surviving and rebalancing our common, public well-being in this age of chaotic, extreme greed, driving further global warming and global disruption.

Source: Reprinted with permission from The Marion Thompson Wright Lecture Series, February 17, 2024

OPENING REMARKS



Mayte Green-Mercado (she/her)

Associate Professor, Newark Campus Director of the Institute for the Study of Global Racial Justice

OPENING REMARKS

Mayte Green-Mercado, Lead Principal Investigator, is an Associate Professor of History, and the Newark Campus Director of the Institute for the Study of Global Racial Justice at Rutgers University. She teaches courses on race and race-making in the pre-modern world; migration, displacement, and refugees in the Mediterranean; and history of Islamic civilization. Her current book project is concerned with histories of displacement, migration, and refugees in the early modern Mediterranean. She serves as a manuscript and grant reviewer for national and international organizations, she sits on the boards of The Mediterranean Seminar, The Spain North Africa Project, and several editorial boards, and she serves as mentor for the Race B4 Race mentorship network.



Amir Moosavi (he/him)

Assistant Professor in the Department of English at Rutgers University – Newark

OPENING REMARKS

Amir Moosavi is an Assistant Professor in the Department of English at Rutgers University – Newark, and co-organizer of the Seminar Aftermaths of War: Memory and Histories for the Future. His research and teaching interests cover modern Arabic and Persian literatures and the cultural history of the Middle East, with an emphasis on Iran, Iraq, and the Levant. At Rutgers – Newark, he teaches courses on Arabic and Persian fiction and film, world literature, translation studies, and war culture. He is particularly interested in how cultural production deals with violent pasts, wars, notions of transitional justice, representations of urban space, and the climate crisis.



Wendell Hassan Marsh (he/him)

Assistant Professor in the Department of English at Rutgers University – Newark

OPENING REMARKS

Wendell Hassan Marsh is an Assistant Professor of Africana Studies at Rutgers University – Newark and co-organizer of the Seminar Series Aftermaths of War: Memory and Histories for the Future. He received a PhD from the Department of Middle Eastern, South Asian, and African Studies and from the Institute of Comparative Literature and Society at Columbia University in 2018. His scholarship focuses on African-Arabic textuality, the intellectual history of Islam in Africa and the African Diaspora, and religious studies. He has been awarded the Fulbright fellowship, a Ford dissertation fellowship, and a postdoc at the Buffett Institute for Global Studies at Northwestern University.

Catalina Muñoz

she, her, hers

Associate Professor of History, Universidad de los Andes, Colombia**OPENING REMARKS**

Catalina Muñoz, is an Associate Professor of history at the Universidad de los Andes in Bogotá, Colombia. She received her Ph.D. from the University of Pennsylvania. Her work approaches historical thinking and *longue durée* analysis as a collaborative and forward-looking endeavor to advance social justice. Her production *Nuestra Orilla* (2023), a podcast series produced with two afro-Colombian community leaders challenges the methodologies, temporalities, and ways of narrating the histories of violence in Colombia by centering the perspectives of those most affected by it. She was a Visiting Research Scholar at Princeton University's Program for Latin American, a member of the Institute for Advanced Study, and a Fulbright Visiting Scholar at the Humanities Action Lab at Rutgers University – Newark.

Gary Wilder

he, him, his

Professor of Anthropology and director of the Committee on Globalization and Social Change, CUNY Graduate Center**OPENING REMARKS**

Gary Wilder is a Professor in the Ph.D. Program of Anthropology, with cross-appointments in History and French, at the Graduate Center of the City University of New York, where he is also Director of the Committee on Globalization and Social Change. Wilder's work on the French empire, Francophone West Africa and the Caribbean, and Black Atlantic social thought is located at the intersection of historical anthropology, intellectual history, and critical theory. He is the author of *Freedom Time: Negritude, Decolonization, the Future of the World*, and *The French Imperial Nation-State: Negritude and Colonial Humanism Between the World Wars*. He has published article in the *American Historical Review*, *Radical History Review*, *Public Culture*, *History of the Present*, among many others. He has received research grants from the National Science Foundation, Social Science Research Council, Fulbright/IIE Program, MacArthur Foundation, Spencer Foundation, American Council of Learned Societies and the Mellon Foundation.

Mayte Green–Mercado (she/her)

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR

Associate Professor of History, Newark Campus Director of the Institute for the Study of Global Racial Justice



Mayte Green-Mercado, Lead Principal Investigator, is an Associate Professor of History, and the Newark Campus Director of the Institute for the Study of Global Racial Justice at Rutgers University. She teaches courses on race and race-making in the pre-modern world; migration, displacement, and refugees in the Mediterranean; and history of Islamic civilization. Her research focuses on medieval and early modern Mediterranean history. She teaches courses on Islamic Civilization, Islamic history in Spain and North Africa, and early modern Mediterranean history. Her courses deal with questions of religion, politics, identity, and race and ethnicity in the medieval and early modern periods.

Her Visions of Deliverance. Moriscos and the Politics of Prophecy in the Early Modern Mediterranean was published by Cornell University Press in 2019. Her current book project is concerned with histories of displacement, migration, and refugees in the early modern Mediterranean. She serves as a manuscript and grant reviewer for national and international organizations, she sits on the boards of The Mediterranean Seminar, The Spain North Africa Project, and several editorial boards, and and she serves as mentor for the Race B4 Race mentorship network. She is a 2021 recipient of a Chancellor's SEED grant award for the Mediterranean Displacements Project, of which she is founder and co-director. She is co-founder of the Arabic Language Initiative at RU-N, which receives funding from the Department of Education.

Lauren Shallish (she/her) **CO-PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR**

Associate Professor of Critical Disability Studies, Associate Chair, Associate Professor of Disability Studies in Education, and Affiliated Faculty in Africana and American Studies

Lauren Shallish, Co-Principal Investigator, is an Associate Professor of Critical Disability Studies and Associate Chair. Dr. Shallish is an Associate Professor of Disability Studies in Education and affiliated faculty in the Africana and American Studies Departments. Her research examines the hyper-labeling of multiply-minoritized students and how constructs of ability and dis/ability are framed in higher education equity work. She teaches community-engaged courses on inclusive and social justice pedagogies, disability studies, and qualitative research. Dr. Shallish worked in higher education and urban K-12 settings, most recently as faculty at The College of New Jersey, Chief

of Staff at Hobart and William Smith Colleges, in the Office of Special Education in D.C. Public Schools (Early Stages and the Incarcerated Youth Program), and as a qualitative research assistant for the Center on Institutional and Social Change at Columbia University Law School. She was named a 2015 Exemplary Diversity Scholar for the National Center for Institutional Diversity (NCID) and has been a featured keynote speaker on the topics of equity, disability studies, and higher education. She currently serves as a grant reviewer, associate journal editor, editorial reviewer, and board member for local and national organizations. She founded the first Disability Studies program at Rutgers University, is a current partner in Teaching Against Erasure, inaugural member of The Pulitzer Center's 1619 Project Education Network, and a 2022 recipient of the Chancellor's SEED Grant Award.



MEET THE TEAM



Ashley Gwathney (she/her)

Adjunct Researcher, Cornwall Center of Metropolitan Studies

POSTDOCTORAL FELLOW

Ashley Gwathney is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and Certified School Social Worker with a doctorate in social work from Rutgers University. She has collaborated with the Joseph C. Cornwall Center for Metropolitan Studies, the New Jersey State Policy Lab, the New Jersey Scholarship Transformative Education Prison Program, and Rural Pathways. She has published in the Clinical Social Work Journal, Journal of Ethnic and Cultural Diversity in Social Work, and her co-authored paper, Learning and Liberation: Black Home Education as a Social Movement, was presented at the 2024 American Educational Research Association annual meeting.



Christina Strasburger (she/her)

Rutgers – Newark, Department of History and Africana Studies

DEPARTMENT ADMINISTRATOR

Christina Strasburger is an administrative and academic professional with over two decades of experience in higher education. She provides a range of education, information, and advocacy services for students, faculty, staff, and community. She is co-founder of the award-winning Queer Newark Oral History Project, a community-directed initiative dedicated to recording and preserving the history of LGBTQ+ people in and of Newark, NJ. She has received the JanHerman Veenker Circle of Friends Award, a Black Organization of Students' Betty Shabazz Certificate of Education, Advising Matters' Student Advising Award, Women's History Month Committee's "Sheroe" of Newark Award, Staff Excellence Award, and the President's Recognition Award.



Sydney Johnson (she/her)

PhD candidate in the American Studies Rutgers University – Newark

DIGITAL CONTENT CREATOR

Sydney Johnson is a PhD candidate in the American Studies Program at Rutgers University-Newark. She holds an MA in Public History from American University and has collaborated with various cultural institutions, such as Monument Lab and New Arts Justice, the Humanities Action Lab, and the Smithsonian Institution. Notably, she served as Curator of Exhibits for the Missouri State Museum & Jefferson Landing State Historic Site from 2016-2018, making her the institution's first curator of color. Sydney studies race, place, and heritage; her current project explores how historical narratives of suburban landscapes erase Black women's labor.



Amir Moosavi (he/him)

**Assistant Professor English Rutgers University – Newark
CO-ORGANIZER**

Amir Moosavi is an Assistant Professor in the Department of English at Rutgers University-Newark, and co-organizer of the Seminar "Aftermaths of War: Memory and Histories for the Future." His research and teaching interests cover modern Arabic and Persian literatures and the cultural history of the Middle East, with an emphasis on Iran, Iraq, and the Levant. At Rutgers – Newark, he teaches courses on Arabic and Persian fiction and film, world literature, translation studies, and war culture. He is particularly interested in how cultural production deals with violent pasts, wars, notions of transitional justice, representations of urban space, and the climate crisis.



Wendell Marsh (he/him)

**Assistant Professor of Africana Studies at Rutgers University – Newark
CO-ORGANIZER**

Wendell Marsh is Assistant Professor of Africana Studies at Rutgers University-Newark. He received a PhD from the Department of Middle Eastern, South Asian, and African Studies and from the Institute of Comparative Literature and Society at Columbia University in 2018. His scholarship focuses on African-Arabic textuality, the intellectual history of Islam in Africa and the African Diaspora, and religious studies. He has been awarded the Fulbright fellowship, a Ford dissertation fellowship, and a postdoc at the Buffett Institute for Global Studies at Northwestern University. He is also a co-organizer of the Seminar Series Aftermaths of War: Memory and Histories for the Future.



Roula Seghaier (she/her)

**PhD candidate in Global Urban Studies Rutgers University – Newark
CO-ORGANIZER**

Roula Seghaier is a labor unionist with 15 years of organizing experience with migrants, refugees, and workers of the informal economy. Her academic training is in political studies, transitional justice, and human rights and she is currently pursuing a PhD at the Global Urban Studies program at Rutgers University-Newark. Roula served as the managing editor of an indie academic publication on gender and body research from the SWANA and as the strategist for a global union federation working with the domestic workers' movement worldwide. She has one award-winning novel in Arabic. She is a co-organizer of the Seminar "Aftermaths of War: Memory and Histories for the Future."



Chris Agans (he/him)

Executive Director of New Jersey's Scholarship and Transformative Education in Prisons Consortium

CO-ORGANIZER

Chris Agans is Executive Director of New Jersey's Scholarship and Transformative Education in Prisons consortium. He leads the NJ-STEP administrative team and oversees the delivery of NJ-STEP's B.A. Program in Justice Studies. In this role he has managed the coordination of services for students attending college in New Jersey's prisons and their bridge to college in the community since 2017. Prior to this he led the development of the transitional supports for formerly incarcerated students on Rutgers University campuses (now known as the "Rutgers Mountainview Communities") and facilitated their expansion across the Rutgers system over a five year period. Agans is the former Director of the federally funded TRIO Student Support Services program for Rutgers New Brunswick.



LaChan Hannon (she/her)

Director of Teacher Preparation & Innovation Urban Education

CO-ORGANIZER

LaChan V. Hannon, Ph.D. is a former high school teacher and current Director of Teacher Preparation & Innovation in the Department of Urban Education at Rutgers –Newark. She received her Ph.D. from Montclair State University in teacher education and teacher development. Her scholarly work investigates the intersectionality of race, disability, and parent involvement as they relate to the professional development for school leaders and educators. She has published articles and chapters in the International Handbook of Self-Study of Teaching and Teacher Education Practices, Contemporary Justice Review, and others. Her TEDx Talk titled Young, Gifted & Black with Autism was released in 2016.



Alison Howell (she/her)

Associate Professor of Political Science at Rutgers University, Affiliate Member of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

CO-ORGANIZER

Alison Howell is Associate Professor of Political Science at Rutgers University, Newark, where she is also an affiliate member of Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies, the Division of Global Affairs, and Global Urban Studies. She previously held research fellowships at the Humanitarian and Conflict Response Institute and in Politics, both at the University of Manchester, as well as a Fulbright at Brown University. Her work has also been published in the Review of International Studies, Security Dialogue, Alternatives: Global, Local, Political, Millennium: Journal of International Studies, the International Feminist Journal of Politics, the Journal of Intervention and Statebuilding, and others.



Javier Robles (he/him)

Assistant Teaching Professor and Faculty, Rutgers University and President of the Latino Action Network

CO-ORGANIZER

Javier Robles is a professor at Rutgers University. He is a Juris Doctor graduate of Seton Hall Law School and a graduate of Rutgers University. Javier Robles is a faculty member and professor of The Kinesiology and Health Department and Co-chair of the Rutgers University Disability Studies committee. He is the Director of the Center for Disability Sports, Health and Wellness at Rutgers University and Chair of the New Jersey Disabilities Covid-19 Action Committee. He has served as the past Chairperson of the Drug and Alcohol Advisory Council for the Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and Disabled.



Mi Hyun Yoon (she/her)

**PhD candidate in the American Studies Rutgers University – Newark
GRADUATE ASSISTANT**

Mi Hyun Yoon is a PhD candidate in American Studies at Rutgers University-Newark. Her research looks at the history of the Korean diaspora in the United States through the transnational context of Asian America and Korea. Her latest articles are "Kung Flu and Roof Koreans: Asian/Americans as the Hated Other and Proxies of Hating in the White Imaginary," published in 2021, the Journal of Hate Studies, and "To Write in Unwellness: Documenting A/P/A Voices," published in 2022 in the Journal of Asian American Studies.



Christelle Jasmin (she/her)

**PhD candidate in the American Studies Rutgers University – Newark
DIGITAL MARKETING**

Christelle Jasmin is a PhD candidate in American Studies at Rutgers University-Newark. Her research utilizes a black feminist lens to theoretically and materially investigate intersections of critical animal studies and carceral studies. Her work is interested in the ways captivity frames the animalization of blackness and the racialization, or blackening, of animals. Christelle earned her bachelor's degree in International Studies and with a minor in Women's and Gender studies from the City College of New York. Working closely with THE KITE, an organization that offers politically informed creative writing courses to incarcerated students in New York City, she largely works on projects related to college access and restorative justice.



Esperanza Santos (she/her)

**PhD candidate in the American Studies Rutgers University – Newark
OUTREACH CURATOR**

Esperanza Onoria Santos is a graduate student in the American Studies program at Rutgers University–Newark, where she has worked with the Queer Newark Oral History Project, the James Street Oral History Project, and the Mellon Foundation’s Sawyer Seminar Series. Additionally, she led the Arts Committee for the 2023 strike led by the AAUP-AFT Union. Broadly speaking, she is interested in being a scholar of Latinx Literature and Culture, Queer Transnationalisms, Queer/Trans History, Trans of Color Critique, and Transfeminismo.



Moira Armstrong (they/them)

**PhD candidate in the American Studies Rutgers University – Newark
GRADUATE ASSISTANT**

Moira Armstrong is a PhD student in American Studies at Rutgers University – Newark. They received a BA in English and history with a minor in LGBTQ studies from Kent State University in 2022 and an MA in gender, sexuality, and culture from Birkbeck, University of London in 2023. Their research interests include queer and disability studies, oral and public history, the COVID-19 pandemic, and asexuality and aromanticism.



Mustafa Hoshmand (he/him)

**PhD candidate in the Global Studies Rutgers University – Newark
GRADUATE ASSISTANT**

Mustafa Hoshmand is a researcher whose interests lie at the intersection of migration, forced displacement, and development. Drawing on his background in economics and experience in working on refugees-related topics, I focus on the experiences of refugees and migrants, their meaningful participation, and durable solutions. His research combines quantitative and qualitative methods, as well as fieldwork in a variety of settings. His work has been published in several journals and international conferences.



Cintia Martins Freitas (she/her)

**PhD candidate in the Global Studies Rutgers University – Newark
OUTREACH CURATOR**

Cintia She is a first-year PhD student in Global Urban Studies. She is originally from Guaíba, a town in the metropolitan region of Porto Alegre, Brazil, interested in understanding the intersection of feminism, localism, and alter-globalization, particularly in social/political movements in the Brazilian context. She has worked with local organizations from Vargem Grande neighborhood in Rio de Janeiro (Brazil) to understand the links between agroecology and democracy in the urban context.



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This event was made possible by the Mellon Foundation. Many thanks to our co-sponsors for their additional support. Much gratitude to Gourmet Dining, Reservations, and Express Newark!