



CONFRONTING RACIAL CAPITALISM: THE BLACK RADICAL TRADITION & CULTURES OF LIBERATION

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Thulani Davis
Gina Dent
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Christina Heatherton
Robin D. G. Kelley
S. Ani Mukherji
Jack O'Dell
Paul Ortiz
Barbara Ransby
Cedric J. Robinson
Elizabeth Robinson
Nikhil Pal Singh
Françoise Vergès
Daniel Widener

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Center for Place, Culture, and Politics, Graduate Center, CUNY
in collaboration with New York University

CONFRONTING RACIAL CAPITALISM: THE BLACK RADICAL TRADITION & CULTURES OF LIBERATION

Occasioned by the work of Cedric J. Robinson, this symposium brings together leading radical thinkers to consider the history and ongoing struggle against racial capitalism. From *Black Marxism: The Making of the Black Radical Tradition* to his more recent work, *Forgeries of Memory and Meaning: Blacks and the Regimes of Race in American Theatre and Film Before World War II*, Robinson's scholarship has been unafraid to think big. Through two days of conversation, we aim to do the same.

We will ask:

How has the Black Radical Tradition created tools for liberation?

How must we sharpen the analysis of racial capitalism?

How are ideological struggles essential to radical politics?

What is the contemporary range, strength, and vulnerability of spaces for radical thought?

How can we transform individual pleasure into collective joy?

How can we learn from past failures without accepting defeat?

NOVEMBER 20, 2014

IDEOLOGICAL STRUGGLE & RADICAL
POLITICAL IMAGINATIONS
CUNY GRADUATE CENTER,
SKYLIGHT ROOM (1:30pm–3:30pm)

Radical opponents of racial capitalism and imperialism have offered bold counters to the dominant ideology. Through newspaper, radio, literature, and oral history, they have inspired new visions of solidarity among oppressed peoples beyond borders. This panel features journalists, historians, and activists whose work has illuminated histories and cultures of liberation. Shaped by the intersections of domestic antiracist and global anti-imperialist struggles, panelists **Elizabeth Robinson**, **Thulani Davis**, and **Paul Ortiz** will discuss their ongoing work to document, enrich, and embolden radical political imaginations. Moderated by **Jordan T. Camp**.

CONFRONTING RACIAL REGIMES
EVENING PLENARY
ARTHUR L. CARTER JOURNALISM
INSTITUTE 20 COOPER SQUARE,
7TH FLOOR (6:30pm–8:30pm)

Cedric J. Robinson's influential works have explored the systems of knowledge and ignorance through which race is proposed as a justification for power relations. These racial regimes, as he calls them, have been intrinsic to U.S. capitalism since its inception. From the standpoint of the early 21st century, this plenary asks what is to be learned from critiques of racial regimes in the early 20th century? As structural unemployment, militarized policing, prisons, and war have become permanent features of the political economy, how do we confront racial regimes at present? **Ruth Wilson Gilmore** and **Robin D. G. Kelley** discuss these and other Issues With **Cedric J. Robinson**.

NOVEMBER 21, 2014

ANTI-CAPITALIST
AND ANTI-COLONIAL ENCOUNTERS
CUNY GRADUATE CENTER,
ELEBASH RECITAL HALL (10am–12pm)

This panel explores the culture and politics of anti-capitalist traditions that emerged from anti-colonial and anti-imperial struggles across Africa, Asia, the Americas, and Europe. From anti-imperialist music in the Caribbean, to Pan-African currents in the Comintern, to the anti-colonial radicalism of Frantz Fanon, panelists **Hakim Adi**, **Daniel Widener**, and **Françoise Vergès** discuss these cross currents and unanticipated global solidarities. Moderated by **S. Ani Mukherji**.

ANTIRACIST INTERNATIONALISM
AND PERMANENT WAR
CUNY GRADUATE CENTER,
ELEBASH RECITAL HALL (2pm–4pm)

This session discusses the question of solidarity in the struggle against apartheid, racial capitalism, and permanent war from the early Cold War to the present. **Jack O'Dell**, **Barbara Ransby**, and **Nikhil Pal Singh** explore the challenges and opportunities of antiracist internationalism from struggles against apartheid South Africa to the liberation of Palestine to ongoing struggles against settler colonialism worldwide. Moderated by **Christina Heatherton**.

THE BLACK RADICAL TRADITION:
ABOLITION FEMINISM
EVENING PLENARY
MEYER HALL 4 WASHINGTON PLACE,
ROOM 121 (6:30pm–8:30pm)

The closing session features **Angela Y. Davis** and **Gina Dent** in conversation about abolition feminism, policing, war, and the prison industrial complex. In consideration of urgent social movements confronting racial capitalism in the present, they discuss struggles for freedom not predicated on the unfreedom of others. Moderated by **Avery F. Gordon**.

Hakim Adi, Professor of History of Africa and the African Diaspora, University of Chichester in England.
Jordan T. Camp, Postdoctoral Research Associate, Center for African American Studies, Princeton University.
Angela Y. Davis, Distinguished Professor Emerita of History of Consciousness and Feminist Studies, UC Santa Cruz.
Thulani Davis, Assistant Professor of Afro-American Studies and Nellie Y. McKay Fellow, University of Wisconsin-Madison.
Gina Dent, Associate Professor of Feminist Studies, History of Consciousness, and Legal Studies, UC Santa Cruz.
Ruth Wilson Gilmore, Director, Center for Place, Culture, and Politics, Professor of Earth & Environmental Sciences & American Studies, CUNY Graduate Center.
Avery F. Gordon, Professor of Sociology, UC Santa Barbara.
Christina Heatherton, Assistant Professor, American Studies, Trinity College.
Robin D. G. Kelley, Distinguished Professor of History and Gary B. Nash Endowed Chair in United States History, UCLA.
S. Ani Mukherji, Visiting Assistant Professor of American Studies, Honors College, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.
Jack O'Dell, Civil rights, labor, and peace activist; former editor of *Freedomways* magazine; writer; and public intellectual.
Paul Ortiz, Director of the Samuel Proctor Oral History Project, and Associate Professor of History, University of Florida.
Barbara Ransby, Professor, African American Studies, Gender and Women's Studies, and History, and Director of the Social Justice Initiative at the University of Illinois at Chicago.
Cedric J. Robinson, Professor Emeritus of Black Studies and Political Science, UC Santa Barbara.
Elizabeth Robinson, Radio journalist and co-host of television show "Third World News Review" as well as radio show "No Alibis," KCSB 91.9 FM, UC Santa Barbara.
Nikhil Pal Singh, Associate Professor of Social and Cultural Analysis and History at New York University.
Françoise Vergès, Consulting Professor at Center for Cultural Studies, Goldsmiths College, and president of the Comité pour la Mémoire et l'Histoire de l'Esclavage (France).
Daniel Widener, Associate Professor of History, UC San Diego.

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