

RaceB4Race®

# Genealogies

September 22–24, 2022

University of Toronto



**why some people be mad at  
me sometimes**

**they ask me to remember**

**but they want me to remember**

**their memories**

**and i keep on remembering**

**mine.**

**— Lucille  
Clifton**



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# Genealogies

What are the genealogies of racial formation? How do our histories of race-making, of imperialism and enslavement, live on in our present moment? What does it mean to excavate the historical, cultural, and political genealogies of race, and what does such a methodology look like? This symposium explores the multi-layered and interwoven strands of premodern racial formation. Even as it unfolds the critical genealogies that scaffold our understanding of race today, it places pressure on the intellectual and disciplinary conventions that will continue to inform our future.

**Thursday, Sept. 22**

## An Evening with Afua Cooper

**5:00 pm EDT | Seeley Hall**

Multidisciplinary scholar, author, and artist, Dr. Afua Cooper is a fellow at the Warren Center for Studies in American History, Harvard University. She is a pioneering scholar and researcher in Black Canadian history, and the leading expert in Canadian slavery studies. Dr. Cooper also chaired the scholarly panel that investigated Dalhousie University's connection to slavery and anti-Blackness. She also led the research efforts, and was the principal author of the subsequent report *Lord Dalhousie's History on Slavery and Race*. These initiatives revealed the connections between the university and the Atlantic slaving systems.

Afua is the PI for A Black People's History of Canada project housed at Dalhousie University where she teaches and holds a Killam Research Chair. Additionally, she is a member of the International Scientific Committee for the Routes of Enslaved peoples, UNESCO. Dr. Cooper was honored by *Maclean's* magazine as one of the 50 most influential Canadians.

A celebrated poet, in 2020 Dr. Cooper was Awarded the Portia White Prize, Nova Scotia's highest recognition for the arts. She is also the winner of the J.M. Abraham Atlantic Poetry Award for her poetry book *Black Matters*.

A reception to follow at St. Michael's College.



## Friday, Sept. 23

9:00 am – 9:30 am

### Registration and coffee

9:30 am – 10:00 am

**Urvashi Chakravarty**—Opening Remarks: Genealogies

10:00 am – 10:45 am

**Miles P. Grier**—Make an End to Thy Posterity:  
Reconnecting the Prehistories of Inkface

11:00 am – 11:45 am

**Wallace Cleaves**—Anamnesis and Ancestry:  
A Comparative Analysis of the Fragility and Centrality of  
Lineage in Medieval and Indigenous Literature and Tradition

### Lunch Break

1:45 pm – 2:30 pm

**Mira 'Assaf Kafantaris**—Genealogies of Movement  
and Border-Crossing: The Case of Foreign Royal Women

2:45 pm – 3:30 pm

**Nicole Lopez-Jantzen**—Genealogies of Race in  
Early Medieval Italy

3:30 pm – 3:45 pm

**Liza Blake**—Brief Closing Remarks

## Saturday, Sept. 24

9:00 am – 10:00 am

### Registration and coffee

10:00 am – 10:45 am

**Tamara Walker**—Genealogies of Whiteness in  
Latin American History

11:00 am – 11:45 am

**Hassana Moosa**—Marking Strangers: Muslims  
and Racial Profiling in Early Modern England

### Lunch Break

1:45 pm – 2:30 pm

**Jack Wiegand**—A Whim of Circumstance: Medievalization  
of the Native in Robert E. Howard's *Beyond the Black River*

2:45 pm – 3:30 pm

**Kyle Grady**—Moors to Mulattos: Representations of  
Mixedness and their Early Modern English Antecedents

3:30 pm – 4:00 pm

**Ruben Espinosa**—Closing Remarks

All talks take place in Seeley Hall





# Mira 'Assaf Kafantaris

**Mira 'Assaf Kafantaris** is assistant professor of English at Butler University. She specializes in premodern critical race studies, Shakespeare, and early modern culture. She is completing her first manuscript, titled *Royal Marriage, Foreign Queens, and Racial Formations in the Early Modern Period*. Her book chapters have appeared in *Race and Affect in Early Modern English Literature*, *The Palgrave Handbook of Shakespeare's Queens*, and *The Cambridge Edition of the Works of Ben Jonson* (with Richard Dutton). Her public humanities essays have appeared in several online publications, including *The Sundial*, *The Millions*, *Overland Journal*, *The Rambling*, and elsewhere. She co-edited, with Sonja Drimmer and Treva B. Lindsey, a special issue of the Barnard Center for Research on Women's journal, *The Scholar and Feminist Online*, titled "Race-ing Queens."





## Keynote Speaker

# Afua Cooper

Multidisciplinary scholar, author, and artist, **Dr. Afua Cooper** is a fellow at the Warren Center for Studies in American History, Harvard University. She is a pioneering scholar and researcher in Black Canadian history, and the leading expert in Canadian slavery studies. Dr. Cooper also chaired the scholarly panel that investigated Dalhousie University's connection to slavery and anti-Blackness. She also led the research efforts, and was the principal author of the subsequent report *Lord Dalhousie's History on Slavery and Race*. These initiatives revealed the connections between the university and the Atlantic slaving systems.

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# Wallace Cleaves

**Wallace Cleaves** is an associate professor of teaching, director of the California Center for Native Nations, and associate director in the University Writing Program at the University of California at Riverside. He is a member of the Gabrieleno/Tongva Tribe, the Indigenous peoples of the Los Angeles area, and is the president of the Tongva Taraxat Paxaavxa Conservancy, a non-profit dedicated to cultural preservation and stewardship of land returned to the Tongva community. Recent publications include the 13th edition of *St. Martin's Guide to Writing*, and the essay "From Monmouth to Madoc to Māori: The Myth of Medieval Colonization and an Indigenous Alternative" in the Indigenous Futures and Medieval Past issue of *English Language Notes*.





# Kyle Grady

**Kyle Grady** is assistant professor of English at the University of California, Irvine, where he teaches courses on early modern English literature and African American literature. His work has appeared in the journals *New Literary History*, *Pedagogy*, and *Shakespeare Quarterly*, among others. Grady is currently at work on a monograph exploring representations of racial mixing in Elizabethan and Jacobean drama.





# Miles P. Grier

**Miles P. Grier** is assistant professor of English at Queens College, City University of New York, USA. He is the author of the monograph tentatively titled *Inkface: Othello and the Hidden History of White Interpretive Community, 1604–1855* (forthcoming from University of Virginia Press) and co-editor of *Early Modern Black Diaspora Studies* (Palgrave 2018). His essays on Shakespearean material have appeared in *William and Mary Quarterly*, *Scripturalizing the Human*, *The Cambridge Companion to Shakespeare and Race*, and *Shakespeare/Text*. His essays on more contemporary North American topics have appeared in *Politics and Culture*, *Genders the Journal of Popular Music Studies*, and the *LA Review of Books*.





# Nicole Lopez-Jantzen

**Nicole Lopez-Jantzen** is an associate professor of history at CUNY Borough of Manhattan Community College, where she teaches courses on premodern Mediterranean, modern European, and women's history, and has taught medieval studies course at the CUNY Graduate Center. Her recent research has focused on race, gender, and sexuality in early medieval Italy, as well as the uses of the early medieval past in modern Italian nation building. Additionally, she is the vice president of the Society for Medieval Feminist Scholarship, on the editorial board of *postmedieval*, and is a book review editor for *Speculum*.





# Hassana Moosa

**Hassana Moosa** is a PhD candidate, funded by the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission, in the English Department at King's College London. Her doctoral project examines sixteenth- and seventeenth-century English literary, particularly dramatic, representations of racialized slavery in the Mediterranean Basin. Her research interests extend to early modern Anglo-Muslim encounters, and the Islamophobic frameworks that emerged from them. Hassana is on the steering committee of the Early Modern Scholars of Colour network. She is also an editor on the digital research-platform Medieval and Early Modern Orient (memorient.com). She has an essay on Muslims and racial profiling forthcoming in the volume *Global Shakespeare and Social Injustice*.





# Nicole A. Spigner

**Nicole A. Spigner** is an assistant professor in African American studies and English at Northwestern University. Her manuscript in development, tentatively titled *Niobe Repeating: Black New Women and Ovidian Transformation*, examines feminine transformation and motherhood in the works of Black New Women classicists. She was a 2018-19 Woodrow Wilson Fellow, and completed her PhD at Vanderbilt University. Professor Spigner serves on the boards of *Issues in Critical Investigation* and the *A-Line Journal*. You may find her work in *Brill's Companion to Classical Reception in the Early Americas*, the *A-Line Journal*, and *Public Books*.





# Tamara J. Walker

**Tamara J. Walker** is an historian and co-founder of The Wandering Scholar, a nonprofit focused on making international travel accessible to high school students from underrepresented backgrounds. She is the author of *Exquisite Slaves: Race, Clothing, and Status in Colonial Lima* (which was published by Cambridge University Press in 2017 and won the 2018 Harriet Tubman Prize from the Schomburg Center for Research on Black Culture), and a forthcoming book on the history of African Americans abroad. She has also written about race, culture, and travel for *Slate*, *The Guardian*, *The Root*, and *Columbia Global Reports*, and co-hosts a podcast, *Why We Wander*, which covers all things travel.





# Jack Wiegand

**Jack Wiegand** is a Chickasaw scholar, currently completing his PhD at the University of Wisconsin-Madison's English department. He received his Master's in medieval studies from the University of Toronto. His work focuses on the materiality of print cultures, with a particular interest in how Pre-Columbian New World text technologies inform notions of a Global Middle Ages. He is the editor of the forthcoming volume *Contact Before Columbus*, examining accounts of New World contact prior to the fifteenth century.





## RaceB4Race

RaceB4Race is an ongoing conference series and professional network community by and for scholars of color working on issues of race in premodern literature, history, and culture. RaceB4Race centers the expertise, perspectives, and sociopolitical interests of BIPOC scholars, whose work seeks to expand critical race theory.

RaceB4Race started in 2019 as a research symposium by and for scholars of color working on issues of race in premodern literature, history and culture. Now, RaceB4Race is a wide reaching community of scholars, students, researchers, theater practitioners, curators, librarians, artists and activists who are looking to the past to imagine different, more inclusive, futures.

RaceB4Race is brought to life by the Arizona Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies in partnership with The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Division of Humanities, the Hitz Foundation and the Mellon Foundation.

Learn more about RaceB4Race at [acmrs.asu.edu/RaceB4Race](https://acmrs.asu.edu/RaceB4Race)

## ACMRS

The Arizona Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies was originally established in 1981 by the Arizona Board of Regents as a state-wide, tri-university research unit that bridged the intellectual communities at Arizona State University, Northern Arizona University, and the University of Arizona. Now, ACMRS serves not only our community of scholars and students in Arizona, but also scholars of premodern studies all over the world.

Our mission is to enable and promote the most expansive, creative, and daring scholarship in medieval and renaissance studies. We do this not only by fostering a vibrant intellectual community for the faculty at our three universities, but also by publishing forward-looking, vanguard research through our in-house press. ACMRS promotes work that is historically grounded and theoretically expansive, with the aim of advancing dialogues that reach into the present moment and point us to different, more inclusive, futures.

We develop projects that explore complex topics in an accessible manner so as to reach as wide an audience as possible. In keeping with the ASU charter, we believe that our success in realizing this vision for premodern scholarship should be judged not by whom we exclude, but whom we include, and how they succeed.



## Symposium Sponsors

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Genealogies: A RaceB4Race Symposium is supported in part by funding from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council.



Jackman Humanities Institute  
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Support provided by the Jackman Humanities Institute Program for the Arts.



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ST. MICHAEL'S COLLEGE  
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Reception sponsored by St. Michael's College.

The organizers are also grateful to the many supporting institutions at the University of Toronto:

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- Centre for the Study of the United States

The Folger Institute's Scholarly Programs is funding a limited number of travel and lodging grants-in-aid to support Folger consortium graduate students attending this RaceB4Race symposium at the University of Toronto.



## Symposium Organizers



### Urvashi Chakravarty

Urvashi Chakravarty is associate professor of English at the University of Toronto and works on early modern English literature, critical race studies, queer studies, and the history of slavery. Her first book, *Fictions of Consent: Slavery, Servitude, and Free Service in Early Modern England* (Penn Press, 2022), explores the ideologies of racialized slavery in early modern England; her second book, currently in progress, is titled *From Fairest Creatures: Race,*

*Reproduction, and Slavery in the Early Modern British Atlantic World*. Her articles appear or are forthcoming in *English Literary Renaissance*, *Shakespeare Quarterly*, *Renaissance Quarterly*, the *Journal of Early Modern Cultural Studies*, *Spenser Studies*, *postmedieval*, *Literature Compass*, as well as several edited collections; with Ayanna Thompson, she also co-edited a special issue of *New Literary History* on 'Race and Periodization.' She serves on the Executive Board of RaceB4Race.



### Liza Blake

Liza Blake is associate professor of English at the University of Toronto, working on early modern literature, the histories of science and philosophy, editorial theory and practice, and asexuality studies. With Shawn Moore and Jacob Tootalian, she is general editor of *The Complete Works of Margaret Cavendish* (punctum books), and co-director of Digital Cavendish. With Jenna McKellips, she is project co-lead on *The Asexuality and Aromanticism Bibliography*, an in-progress digital

database with tagged academic and community research. She is at work on two monographs, one titled *Early Modern Literary Physics*, and the other a multimedia monograph titled *Choose Your Own Poems and Fancies*.



### Sim Ong

#### Conference Assistant

Sim Ong is a PhD candidate in English at the University of Toronto, whose research explores the intersections of colonial, astronomical, and utopian conceptions of new worlds in early modern English writings. She is from Singapore by way of New York, having obtained her BA in English and American Literature from New York University. She is thrilled to be a part of this RaceB4Race Symposium!

## RaceB4Race Executive Board

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Save the date for

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Poetics

January 27–28, 2023

Arizona State University

Featuring keynote speaker Fred Moten

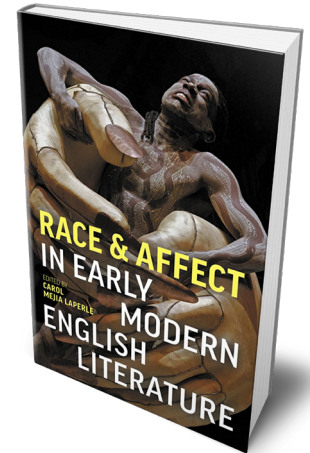
This symposium will invite scholars and poets to examine the ways race can, should, and/or does function within poetic paradigms. Along with our distinguished speaker Fred Moten, we ponder "the question of how we can read the poem is redoubled now. Now, how can we read this poem?"

New From

ACMRS Press

**Race and Affect in Early Modern English Literature**

edited by Carol Mejia LaPerle  
*Race and Affect in Early Modern English Literature*, edited by Carol Mejia LaPerle, brings together critical race studies and affect theory to examine the emotional dimensions of race in early modern literature.



**Race and Romance: Coloring the Past**

by Margo Hendricks  
*Race and Romance: Coloring the Past* by Margo Hendricks explores the literary and cultural genealogy of colorism, white passing, and white presenting in the romance genre.



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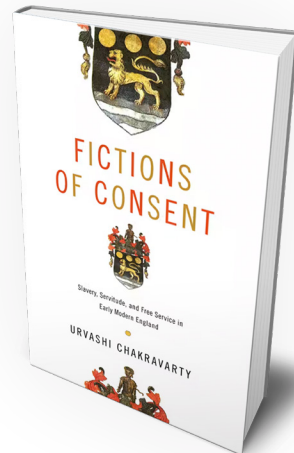
## Critical Race Studies of the Premodern

### University of Pennsylvania Press book series

Books in the UPenn RaceB4Race series focus on topics from antiquity to the eighteenth century and aim at enabling larger historical and theoretical narratives to emerge about the ways race has been constructed and operates in the literature, history, and culture of the global West and beyond.

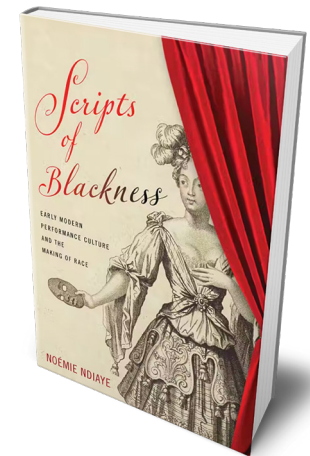
### **Fictions of Consent: Slavery, Servitude, and Free Service in Early Modern England** by Urvashi Chakravarty

In *Fictions of Consent* Urvashi Chakravarty excavates the ideologies of slavery that took root in early modern England in the period that preceded the development of an organized trade in enslaved persons.



### **Scripts of Blackness: Early Modern Performance Culture and the Making of Race** by Noémie Ndiaye

*Scripts of Blackness* shows how the early modern mass media of theatre and performance culture at-large helped turn blackness into a racial category, that is, into a type of difference justifying emerging social hierarchies and power relations in a new world order driven by colonialism and capitalism.



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free US shipping, until 31st December:  
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