

RaceB4Race®

# Indigeneity

February 2025

Tempe, Arizona



What happens when  
you let an unsatisfactory  
present go on long enough?  
**It becomes your  
entire history.**

Louise Erdrich, *The Plague of Doves*



Cover image

**Jaune Quick-to-See Smith**

The Vanishing American. 1994. Acrylic,  
paper, cotton, printing ink, fabricated chalk,  
and graphite pencil on canvas, Overall: 60  
1/8 × 50 1/8 in. (152.7 × 127.3 cm).

Courtesy of the artist and Garth Greenan  
Gallery, New York.



**RaceB4Race**

# Indigeneity

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The term 'indigeneity' must be considered as capaciously as possible in order to recognize its shifting valences of meaning across historical periods and geographies. The relationship between the Indigenous peoples and their land has always been a fundamental notion of indigeneity.

The term as it is commonly used today is largely in reference to native populations of certain lands who have become minorities in their own countries due to the incursion of settler colonialism. However, if we are to think expansively about indigeneity in our present moment, it is important for us to understand the native or aboriginal populations in the premodern world. This symposium seeks to expand and develop our understanding of indigeneity, from its place in the premodern world to its role in the present.

This symposium's programming is envisioned by Scott Manning Stevens and the RaceB4Race Executive Board.

RaceB4Race started in 2019 as a small research symposium by and for BIPOC scholars working in premodern critical race studies. 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, while based at Arizona State University, represents and supports scholars and students all over the world. Bridging many traditional disciplinary divides, RaceB4Race creates innovative scholarly dialogues and fosters social change within premodern studies as a whole.

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## About

## RaceB4Race

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As a model for what a horizontally organized learned society can do for its community, RaceB4Race looks to Arizona State University's charter, measuring ourselves not by whom we exclude, but by whom we include and how they succeed. RaceB4Race demonstrates what it looks like to center BIPOC knowledge, methods of inquiry, curricula, and creative collaborations.

# Engage the past. Define the future.



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**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.

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Our mission is to enable and promote the most expansive, creative, and daring scholarship in premodern studies. We do this not only by fostering a vibrant intellectual community for scholars around the world, but by publishing 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.

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



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## **RaceB4Race** **Executive** **Board**

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An evening with

# Tommy Orange

Author of *There There*  
and *Wandering Stars*

Tommy Orange is the author of the best-selling *There There*, which was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize. *There There* shows us violence and recovery, hope and loss, identity and power, dislocation and communion, and the beauty and despair woven into the history of a nation and its people. His newest work, *Wandering Stars*, conjures the ancestors of the family readers first fell in love with in *There There*, asking what it means to be the children and grandchildren of massacre.

Orange is a 2014 MacDowell Fellow, a 2016 Writing by Writers Fellow, and a recent graduate of the MFA program at the Institute of American Indian Arts. He is an enrolled member of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes of Oklahoma, and was born and raised in Oakland, California. He now lives in Angels Camp, California, with his wife and son.

**February 8, 2025 | 6:00 pm**  
Carson Ballroom, Old Main





# Friday

## February 7

9:00 - 9:30 am

**Registration and coffee**

9:30 - 10:00 am

**Opening remarks**

Ruben Espinosa and Scott Manning Stevens

10:00 - 10:45 am

**Tarren Andrews**

Proto-Settler Colonialism and the Language of Empire: Reframing Early Medieval England through Indigenous Methodologies

11:00 - 11:45 am

**Jamie Paris**

Unaccommodating Settler Ecologies: On Indigenous Ecological Justice and Shakespeare's *King Lear*

11:45 am - 1:30 pm

**Lunch break**

1:30 - 2:15 pm

**Ashley Lance**

Autochthony, Indigeneity, and Colonialism in Plato's *Laws*

2:30 - 3:15 pm

**Mónica Domínguez Torres**

Visualizing Caribbean Indigenous Cultures

3:30 - 4:15 pm

**Dominique E. Polanco**

Indigeneity in the Archives of Abya Yala: New Ways of Approaching and Honoring Mesoamerican Indigenous Histories in Spanish Colonial Records

# Saturday

## February 8

9:00 - 10:00 am

**Registration and coffee**

10:00 - 10:45 am

**Malinda Maynor Lowery**

Thinking with Indigeneity: Foodways and Nostalgia in the Italian Peninsula and the American Southeast After 1493

11:00 - 11:45 am

**Di Hu**

Dangerous Liaisons: Subverting Spanish colonial prohibitions of inter-caste cooperation in the Age of Enlightenment

11:45 am - 1:30 pm

**Lunch break**

1:30 - 2:15 pm

**Melanie J. Newton**

"This Island's Mine By Sycorax, My Mother": *The Tempest*, Gendered Diplomacy and the Cartography of Slavery, 1550-1662

2:30 - 3:15 pm

**Joseph Mizhakiyaasige Zordan**

The Wound of Memory: Settlerhood, Indigeneity, and Civic Memorialization in the Aftermath of the 1704 Deerfield Raid

3:30 - 4:15 pm

**Heather M. Kopelson**

Making Objects, Tending Relations

4:15 - 4:30 pm

**Closing remarks**

Ayanna Thompson

6:00 - 7:00 pm

**An Evening with Tommy Orange**

# Tarren Andrews

**Tarren Andrews** is an assistant professor in ethnicity, race, and migration and a faculty member in the medieval studies program at Yale University. She received her Ph.D. in English from the University of Colorado, Boulder in 2022. Her scholarship employs critical Indigenous studies to re-evaluate stories of the early medieval insular world. Her forthcoming book takes a transtemporal approach to law and literature, examining artifacts from early medieval England like the Domesday Book (England, ca. 1085), the Treaty of Alfred and Guthrum (England, ca. 878), and the Old English poem *The Wife's Lament* (ca. 10th century) to recover formative histories of the Anglophone settler colonial logics that form the foundation of modern Indigenous-settler legal relationships in North America.





# Di Hu

**Di Hu** is an assistant professor of anthropology at James Madison University and the author of *The Fabric of Resistance: Textile Workshops and the Rise of Rebellious Landscapes in Colonial Peru*. Using a variety of methods, she investigates how landscape constrains and provides opportunities for collective action, such as the rise of states, coordinated rebellions, and the emergence of new group identities in South America. She is particularly interested in the divergence between state-sponsored identity categorical schemes and on-the-ground lived experience in colonial Latin America. More recently, she is leading a project to develop open-source tools for the analysis of historical censuses to uncover marginalized demographic histories.





# Heather M. Kopelson

**Heather M. Kopelson** is an associate professor in the Department of History at the University of Alabama and is a co-advisor to the recently founded Indigenous students' group Bama Indigenous Student Organization and Network (BISON). She holds a Ph.D. from the University of Iowa (2008) and is the author of *Faithful Bodies: Performing Religion and Race in the Puritan Atlantic* (New York University Press, 2014). Her current book manuscript, *Speaking Objects: Indigenous Women and the Materials of Dance in the Americas, 1500-1700*, has allowed her to combine her passion for the creation of textiles (spinning, knitting, weaving) with her historical interests.





# Ashley Lance

**Ashley Lance** is a final year PhD student at the University of Cambridge in the Faculty of Classics. Her PhD is on the concept of race in Aristotle and its implications for his ethical, political, and biological works. She also has research interests in the philosophy of race, social epistemology, and Indigenous philosophy. Ashley is of Wiyot and Yurok descent and an enrolled member of the Blue Lake Rancheria.





# Malinda Maynor Lowery

**Malinda Maynor Lowery** is a historian and film producer who is a member of the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina. In July 2021 she joined Emory University as the Cahoon Family Professor of American History. Her second book, *The Lumbee Indians: An American Struggle*, was published by UNC Press in 2018. Her first book, *Lumbee Indians in the Jim Crow South: Race, Identity, and the Making of a Nation* (UNC Press, 2010) won several awards, including Best First Book from the Native American and Indigenous Studies Association. Films she has produced include the Peabody Award-winning *A Chef's Life* (PBS, 2013-2018), *Somewhere South* (PBS, 2020), *Road to Race Day* (Crackle, 2020), and the Emmy-nominated *Private Violence* (HBO, 2014). In 2023, she completed "Lumbeeland," her first narrative short film. She currently serves as President-Elect of the Native American and Indigenous Studies Association, and as founding Faculty Director of Emory's Center for Native American and Indigenous Studies.





# Melanie J. Newton

**Melanie J. Newton** is a professor of history and Caribbean studies and chair of the Graduate Department of History at the University of Toronto. Her publications include *The Children of Africa in the Colonies: Free People of Color in Barbados in the Age of Emancipation* (Baton Louisiana State University Press, 2008); "Returns to a Native Land? Indigeneity and Decolonization in the Anglophone Caribbean" (*Small Axe*, vol. 41, July 2013, pp. 108-122) and "Counterpoints of Conquest: The Royal Proclamation of 1763, the Lesser Antilles and the Ethnocartography of Genocide," (*William and Mary Quarterly*, vol. 79, no. 2, April 2022, 241-282.) She is the winner of the 2023 Lester J. Cappon Prize for best article in the WMQ; an outstanding teaching award in 2016 and the 2023 Milner Memorial Award for the defense of academic freedom from the Canadian Association of University Teachers.



# Joseph Mizhakiyaasige Zordan

**Joseph Mizhakiyaasige Zordan** is a doctoral candidate in the history of art and architecture at Harvard University. His work examines the role which decorative arts, painting, and memorials played in stabilizing different communities during the otherwise unstable sociopolitical conditions wrought by settler colonialism in North America—particularly during the 17th through 19th centuries. Guided by concerns of the affectual, material, and tactile, alongside the political, Zordan's scholarship aims to move toward a more felt reading of the past. His writing has appeared in *Art Journal*, *British Art Studies Journal*, *Brooklyn Rail*, *October*, among others. Currently, Zordan is a 2024–2025 Terra Foundation for American Art Pre-Doctoral Fellow at the Smithsonian American Art Museum.





# Jamie Paris

**Jamie Paris** is a mixed-race (Black, Métis, and Scottish) early modern literature and culture scholar. He is an instructor in the Department of English, Theatre, Film, and Media at the University of Manitoba, and an assistant editor for *Early Theatre*. His scholarship on early modern literature focuses on whiteness and premodern critical race studies. He has published with *The Sundial*, *Public Humanities*, *Early Theatre*, the *Journal for Early Modern Culture*, *Renaissance and Reformation*, *Canadian Literature* and *Digital Studies*, and he has a book, entitled *Clothed Villainy*, forthcoming with the Strode Series at the University of Alabama Press.





# Mónica Domínguez Torres

**Mónica Domínguez Torres** is a professor of art history and the associate director of the Center for Material Culture at the University of Delaware. Her research focuses on the arts of the early modern Iberian World, specifically on cross-cultural exchanges between Spain and the Americas in the period 1500-1700. Her latest book, *Pearls for the Crown: Art, Nature, and Race in the Age of Spanish Expansion*, published by Penn State University Press in April 2024, examines a selection of European images and objects connected to the Atlantic pearl industry. This research has been supported by the NEH, Getty Research Institute, Bard Graduate Center, and Renaissance Society of America, among others.





# Dominique E. Polanco

**Dominique E. Polanco** is an assistant professor of visual and material culture of Abya Ayala in the department of Religion and Culture at Virginia Tech. She specializes in Mesoamerican written records, particularly *amoxltli*, created by Nahua *tlacuiloque* before and after Spanish invasion. Her first monograph traces the creation, collection, and reproduction of the *Pintura del gobernador, alcaldes y regidores de México* (1565) over more than four hundred years and between two continents. Dr. Polanco is currently at work on her book as a 2024-2025 Barbara Thom Postdoctoral Fellow at the Huntington Library.





# Transform your teaching

Students are eager to better understand the issues of the present moment when looking to the past, and educators in the humanities must meet this critical need. We must teach the past in a socially engaged and relevant way, not only for the future of the humanities, but to help our students imagine and shape different, more inclusive, futures for themselves.

Throughlines is the only platform of its kind: an open access multi-media resource for educators engaging premodern critical race studies in their classrooms. The platform houses a wide range of teaching materials, including lectures, pedagogical approaches, exemplar syllabi, model classroom discussions, a selected annotated bibliography, and more.

These materials are developed by cutting-edge scholars in the fields of premodern studies, with contributions by Dan-el Padilla Peralta, Kim F. Hall, Leslie Alexander, Cord J. Whitaker, and more. New pedagogical materials are forthcoming by, among others, Andrea Achi, Patricia Akhimie, Geraldine Heng, Farah Karim-Cooper, and Jennifer L. Morgan.

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