

American Studies at Indiana University

Indiana University Bloomington
College of Arts and Sciences

Volume 9 Issue 3

Thursday, December 10, 2020

Instagram:
[@iubloomingtonamericanstudies](https://www.instagram.com/iubloomingtonamericanstudies)

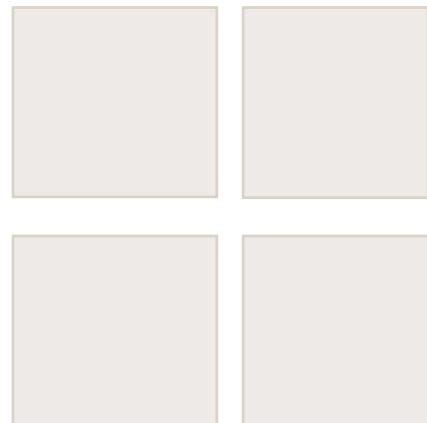


Table of Contents

>>Faculty News

| | |
|---|-----------|
| Maisha Wester's British Academy Fellowship..... | Pages 1-3 |
| Faye Gleisser welcomed as AMST Affiliate Faculty..... | Page 4 |
| Alex Lichtenstein welcomed to AMST Core Faculty..... | Page 4 |
| Susan Lepselter 100% FTE in AMST..... | Page 4 |
| Lessie Jo Frazier's <i>Desired States</i> | Pages 4-5 |
| Sonia Lee's AfroLatin Presentation..... | Page 6 |

>>Graduate Affairs

| | |
|---|-----------|
| MA Program, American Studies Blog, Orientation, | Pages 7-9 |
| Fall 2020 AMST Colloquium- <i>Marking Time</i> | Page 10 |

>>Virtual Conference

| | |
|---|---------|
| Undercommons and Destituent Power Conference..... | Page 11 |
|---|---------|

Contact Us

Indiana University Department of American Studies
1020 E. Kirkwood Avenue
Ballantine Hall 544
Bloomington, IN, USA 47405
(812)855-8484
<https://americanstudies.indiana.edu/>
amst@indiana.edu
Instagram: @iubloomingtonamericanstudies



>>Associate Professor Maisha Wester Wins Prestigious Award from British Academy



American Studies Associate Professor Maisha Wester has been awarded a Global Professorship sponsored by The British Academy. This program provides mid-career to senior scholars in any discipline within the humanities and social sciences, who are currently employed outside the United Kingdom, with the opportunity to be based for four years in the UK and make a contribution to

UK research and higher education. Each appointment is intended to be a complete project in itself and is expected to involve a specific research focus.

Project Description

"The Horrors of Race" is a four-year research and teaching project culminating in a single-authored monograph and a virtual reality environment. The project examines how the rise of the Gothic genre in Britain provided an invaluable vocabulary for remaking black subjects, transforming them from enslaved people to inhuman beasts, and how this vocabulary has extended well beyond the era of slavery into twentieth-century racial discourses.

>>Associate Professor Maisha Wester Wins Prestigious Award from British Academy



This research contributes to the School of English's Gothic Research Centre and its Centre for Research in Film, and aligns the University of Sheffield's civic mission. This project is timely given the success of White Nationalist rhetoric in various nations. The project hopes to counter such rhetoric by refuting notions that ideas of race have been historically stable, revealing the process of racial construction and thus challenging the fiction of white supremacy.

Although Dr. Wester is focusing on Britain in this project, it is because she already has research on how American Gothic and Horror Film has and continues to construct racial discourses within the USA. As such, this project is an attempt to trace the influence of the Gothic upon racial discourses to its first manifestations as well as to show how this proves a trans-Atlantic project. In doing so, she hopes to start a discussion about how dominant and imperialistic cultures continue to manipulate and use these tools globally

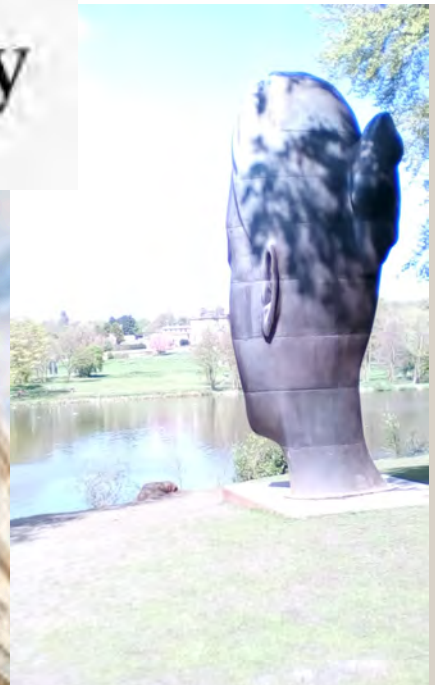
among various minority populations and countries. Despite the challenges of overseas travel in the Covid-19 world, Dr. Wester has completed quarantine and has begun her work in the UK. American Studies is thrilled that she has received this well-deserved honor and opportunity to research her project in depth.



Read Dr. Wester's
Official Press
Release [here](#);
For more
information on the
British Academy
please visit this [link](#).



Associate Professor Maisha Wester Wins Prestigious Award from British Academy



>>AMST Faculty News



Susan<<
Lepselter
100% FTE in
AMST

Susan Lepselter
was confirmed
by AMST
faculty as 100%
FTE in
American
Studies, effective
Spring 2021.



>Lessie **Jo**
Frazier's
*Desired
States: Sex,
Gender, and
Political
Culture in
Chile* American
Studies is
pleased to share
that Lessie Jo
Frazier's new
release of
*Desired States:
Sex, Gender, and
Political Culture
in Chile* was
published in
June 2020 by
the Rutgers
University Press.

>>American Studies
Welcomes Affiliate Faculty
Member Faye Gleisser The
faculty of the Department of
American Studies enthusiastically
welcomed affiliate status of Dr. Faye
Raquel Gleisser on August 13, 2020.

>>American Studies
Welcomes Core Faculty Member
Alex Lichtenstein American Studies
Faculty welcomed Alex Lichtenstein to
core faculty on October 19, 2020. Alex is a
professor in the IU History Department
and serves as an editor for the American
Historical Review. His first course in
American Studies will be taught in Fall
2021.

>Lessie Jo Frazier's *Desired States: Sex, Gender, and Political Culture in Chile* (Continued from Page 4)



Desired States

Sex, Gender,
and Political Culture
in Chile

LESSIE JO FRAZIER

Desired States challenges the notion that in some cultures, sex and sexuality have become privatized and located in individual subjectivity rather than in public political practices and institutions. Instead, the book contends that desire is a central aspect of political cultures. Based on fieldwork, archival research, and cultural critique, Frazier explores the gendered and sexualized dynamics of political culture, asking how people connect with and become mobilized in political projects in some cases or, in others, become disaffected or are excluded to varying degrees.

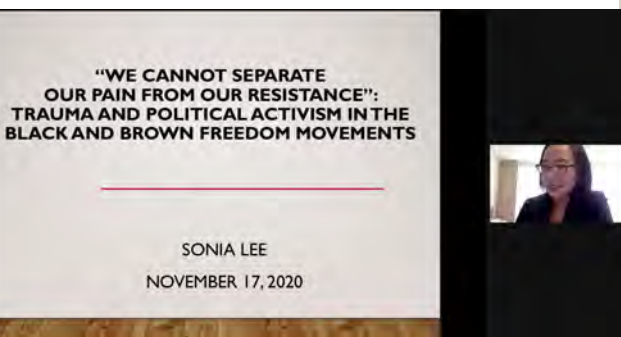
The book situates the state in a rich and changing context of transnational and localized movements, imperialist interests, geopolitical conflicts, and market forces to explore the broader struggles of desiring subjects, especially in those dimensions of life that are explicitly sexual and amorous: free love movements, marriage, the sixties' sexual revolution in Cold War contexts, prostitution policies, ideas about men's gratification, the charisma of leaders, and sexual/domestic violence against women.

>>Continue reading about more AMST faculty news on page 6, with Sonia Lee's latest talk and Micol Seigel's virtual conference, The Undercommons and Destituent Power, on page 11



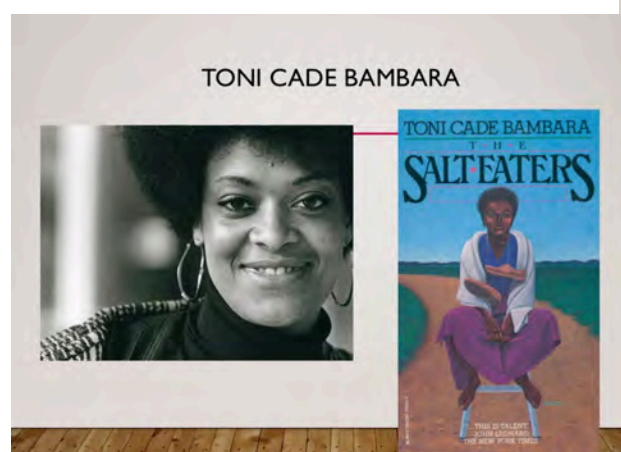


>> Sonia Lee Presents "We Cannot Separate Our Pain from Our Resistance': Trauma and Political Activism in the Black and Brown Freedom Movements"



American Studies Director of Graduate Studies, Sonia Lee, presented her paper, " 'We Cannot Separate Our Pain from Our Resistance:' Trauma and Political Activism in the Black and Brown Freedom Movements" virtually on Tuesday, Nov. 17th. Her presentation was part of the Afro-Latinx Talk Series organized by the Latino Studies Program.

Dr. Lee analyzed writers and activists of color who spoke openly about their mental and physical suffering in order to reveal the full humanity of freedom fighters. Rather than numbing our fury, or feeling ashamed of our illnesses, these writers encouraged us to awaken the erotic within us—those physical, emotional, and psychic expressions of what is deepest and strongest and richest within each of us. Queer feminist and poet Audre Lorde said, "the white fathers told us: I think, therefore I am ... the Black mother within each of us—the poet—whispers in our dreams: I feel, therefore I can be free." What does it mean to feel our way through trauma rather than think through it? These writers clearly did not see trauma as a "terrifying specter," but as a window to see the world through a spiritual lens. They saw that trauma had as much potential to shatter Blackness as it was imagined as well as to paradoxically become the center of it. By focusing on the narratives of individuals who believed in the liberatory potential of trauma, Dr. Lee hopes to reveal a more honest and holistic promise of Black and Brown liberation.



Folklore Assistant Professor Javier León gives a brief introduction before Professor Lee's presentation

>>Graduate Affairs

7

MA Degree in American Studies in Progress

After many years of working on a MA degree for American Studies, the department is in the final stages of approval under the leadership of Director of Graduate Studies, Sonia Lee.

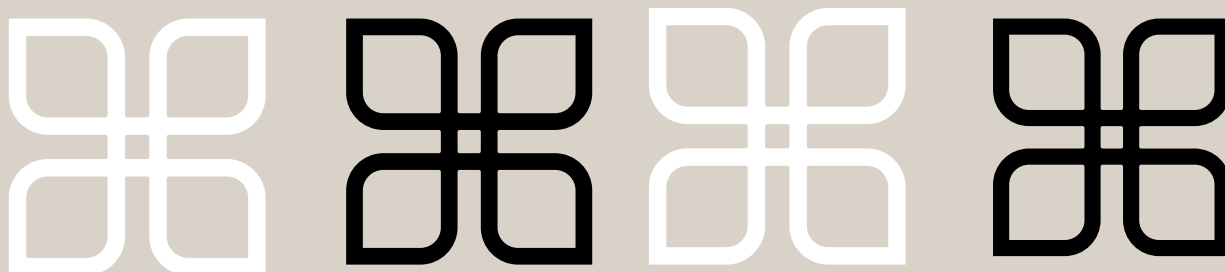


American Studies Announces the Launch of a New Blog

As a means to deliver timely items of interest to our PhD students in American Studies, we have inaugurated a new blog. [AMST Grad Program News](#) posts invitations to talks (virtual), information about campus events, Graduate Mentoring Center news, application deadlines for grants and fellowships, calls for papers, and anything else that might appeal to our major and minor students. The blog also maintains a list of links to campus units that students frequently need, from administrative offices, to campus maps, to the Grad Grants Center.

The goal of this blog is to make it easier for students to find info they need in one place, without having to wade through overflowing inboxes and opaque directories. Kathy Teige, our graduate secretary, operated a similar resource for the Department of Communication and Culture. Based on that experience, she knew (and American Studies agrees), such a means of communication fulfills a need not met by social media platforms or listservs.

We invite you to visit the blog at: <https://amstgrad.blogspot.com/>. Please feel free to send us any news you'd like to see posted! We welcome your thoughts and contributions.



New Graduate Student Orientation

From August 18th through the 21st, American Studies hosted Orientation sessions for our new PhD students. Despite the challenges posed by our new virtual world, our students were well informed during four days of Zoom presentations and conversations.

On Tuesday, the 18th, the three new students, Matt Anticoli, Lisa Doi, and Jeff Moscaritolo, were welcomed by our Chair, Karen Inouye, and our DGS, Sonia Lee. Then, Autumn Winfrey from the College of Arts and Sciences Graduate Office shared information about support the College offers students. Next, representatives from the Grad Grants Center, the Wells Library, and the Center for Research on Race and Ethnicity briefly presented information about the resources to which our students have access. Faculty members Paul Anderson, Rasul Mowatt, and Micol Seigel led a lively workshop discussing opportunities for Professional Development.

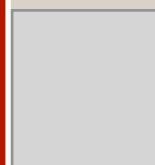
Wednesday, the 19th began with a discussion of pedagogy led by DGS Sonia Lee, and faculty members Lessie Jo Frazier and Susan Lepselter. Jo Ann Vogt from the Center for Innovative Teaching and Learning (CITL), joined the conversation to showcase the support CITL offers. Finally, breakout sessions allowed the new grads to speak with the faculty members for whom they will be graders through the fall semester.

Day three, Thursday, the 20th, offered presentations by Dr. Abegunde Hamilton from the Graduate Mentoring Center, Luciana Guarini from Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS), and Cedric Harris from Reporting Sexual and Racial Violence & Discrimination.

The final day, Friday, the 21st, Whitney Olibo, our office manager, and Kathy Teige, our graduate secretary, gave Jeff, Lisa, and Matt a quick rundown of office policies. Dakota Coates, president of the Graduate and Professional Student Government (GPSG), discussed GPSG programs. Trevor Verrot from the Walter Career Center rounded out the information about student support organizations at IU. Orientation concluded with an All Hands Q & A with all faculty in attendance.

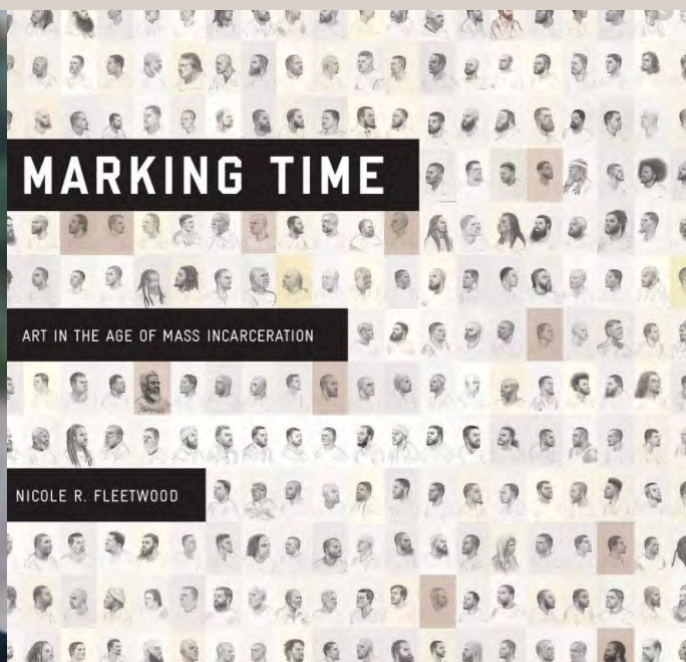
By the end of the week, everyone was informed and excited for their IU adventures to begin.

For more information on Graduate Student Resources at IU, please visit the University Graduate School Website at <https://graduate.indiana.edu/support/student-organizations.html>



Marking Time Colloquium

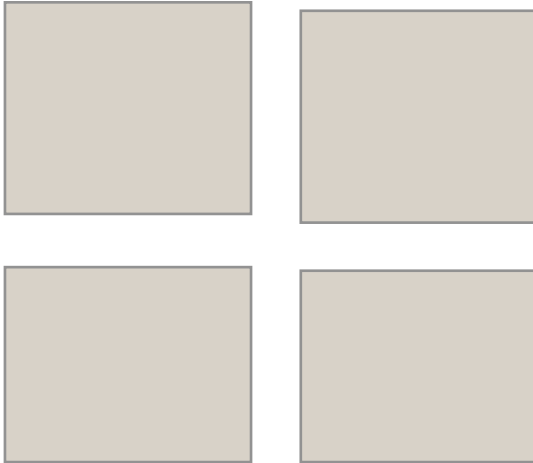
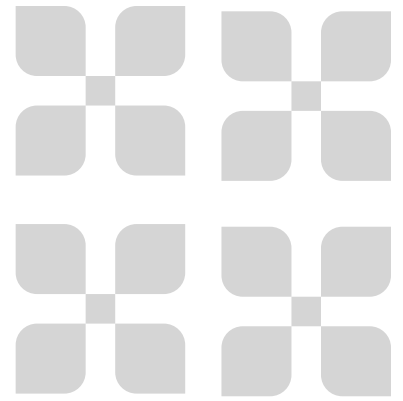
Monday, November 30



On Monday, November 30, AMST Grad Students Matt Anticoli, Lisa Doi, Jeff Moscaritolo, and Giselle Cunnanan met with AMST Faculty via Zoom to discuss questions and their thoughts on Nicole Fleetwood's *Marking Time*, which was published earlier this year. Some topics of discussion included personal sense of repair, how scholars and artists interact, and fraught imaginaries.



>>Undercommons and Destituent Power Conference



On Friday, November 13 the Undercommons and Destituent Power Conference began at 4:00pm with its opening panel, The Virus and the Uprisings, facilitated by Dr. J. Kameron Carter, who is currently a professor in Religious Studies at IU. Panelists a part of this session included Luhuna Carvalho, Avalanche Collective, Rodrigo Karmy, Dylan Rodriguez, Megan Moore, and Gerardo Munoz. Sessions two and three continued through the weekend with ante-politics, self defense of the surround, hostility inside and around the fort, and fugitive approaches to COVID-era conflict. Session 4 concluded the conference on Monday, November 16 with a focus on destitution and collective places of life.

Top: Facilitator Kieran Adams opens up panel 4 Monday, November 16
Left: Philippe Blouin presents during panel 4
Right: Kevin Suemnicht speaks during panel 4