Graduate Fellowships at the Rutgers Center for Historical Analysis, 2017-2018

Black Bodies

Directed by Marisa Fuentes and Bayo Holsey (History, Rutgers)

The Rutgers Center for Historical Analysis (RCHA) invites applications for graduate fellowships for the 2017-2018 academic year. Up to four fellowships are available. Applications are due on April 15, 2017, and the awards will be announced in late April.

Graduate fellows will receive research stipends of $2,000. Fellows will have access to all the activities and services of the Center. They will join visiting postdoctoral fellows chosen from outside the university, Rutgers faculty fellows, and associate fellows in the Center's ongoing meetings and events.

Graduate fellows are expected to attend the Center's weekly Tuesday catered lunch seminars (10:00 AM-12:00 PM) and its occasional lectures and/or conferences.

This project welcomes applications from all disciplines and regional specializations. While individual projects need not be explicitly comparative, weekly seminars and other events will focus on broad themes common to the project.

Applications are warmly invited from RU graduate students, across all disciplines, whose research actively engages with the questions raised by our seminar theme. They will be the core participants, along with the RCHA’s postdoctoral fellows and faculty fellows, in the weekly seminars around which intellectual and collegial exchanges will be oriented.

To apply, complete the fellowship application. If you have questions about the Center’s application process, please contact the Center’s Administrator, Lynn Shanko, at 848-932-8701 or rcha@rci.rutgers.edu.
With vital urgency and new technologies of story-telling, we daily witness black bodies in peril. From histories of slavery and discrimination to more present modes of state violence, black bodies have been figured as disposable and resistive, silenced and demanding. This RCHA Seminar, “Black Bodies,” seeks to pull together several interdisciplinary frames of inquiry about ‘black bodies’ in various times, spaces, and geographies. Attentive to the intersections/assemblages of race, gender and sexuality this seminar asks and invites questions concerning the many ways in which black bodies are subject to epistemic, historical, archival, state/non-state, biopolitical, and praxes of violence and erasure in global configurations. We will also consider how we remember, grieve, represent, signify, and reclaim black bodies and lives in a variety of contexts.

Our project pursues several questions to attend to and address black embodiment from interdisciplinary perspectives. These questions include but are not limited to: How do ‘black bodies’ come into our frames of view? In what historical and geographic contexts are black bodies legible? How does “blackness” travel globally? How do we account for systems of racialization that mark a range of non-white bodies? What are the structures, ideologies, systems, and forms of power that subject black bodies around the world to different practices and forces of violence? How can we assess the negative health outcomes, psychological traumas, and increased mortality rates that accompany racism?

This RCHA project explores how various communities of color have reckoned with the trauma of/on black bodies. It also asks: what alternative visions of black selfhood have they constructed? How do empowering experiences of embodiment involving sexuality, procreation, and physicality challenge the widespread devaluation of black bodies? What strategies, methods, and paradigms are adequate to understanding how conditions of precarity continue to threaten black bodies in public and private—in material, structural, and theoretical ways? We recognize the urgency of these questions given the increased visibility of state and other forms of violence against black bodies around the world, represented in images of gunshot-riddled African American bodies left dying on U.S. streets, victims of police violence, and African migrant bodies that wash up on European shores, the casualties of political crises and neo-liberal economic policies. We also recognize the powerful responses to this violence by activists, artists, and scholars who have reimagined black bodies in creative and meaningful ways.
Graduate Fellowship Application, 2017-2018

1. Name……………………………………………………………………………………

2. Department………………………………………………………………………………

3. Faculty or School………………………………………………………………………

4. Home Address…………………………………………………………………………

5. Home Phone Number…………………………………………………………………

6. Email address…………………………………………………………………………

7. Title of project proposal………………………………………………………………

8. Please provide a three page description of your project and its relationship to the current topic of the Center, “Black Bodies.” Include a bibliography if appropriate.

9. Please include curriculum vitae.

10. Please provide the names of and contact information for three professors as references.

All applications must be returned to the Center for Historical Analysis, Rutgers Academic Building, 15 Seminary Place, 6th Floor, Room 6102 or emailed to rcha@rci.rutgers.edu by April 15, 2017