

“Race, Sexuality, and the Transnational”

A Summer Research Institute

Sponsored by the Mellon Faculty Lifecycles grant as a seminar in the Twin Cities

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Racialized sexualities are crucial sites of feminist and queer scholarship and organizing. Such projects are locating racial and sexual power and agency in the transnational dynamics of colonialism, migration, and globalization. Amidst burgeoning work, we propose the time is ripe to clarify the state of an emerging field of study, while accounting for its relations to feminist and queer anti-racist theories and movements.

Theories of race and sexuality have been informed by the anti-racist sexual politics of women of color feminisms and queer of color organizing, but the precise nature of their linkage deserves telling. Feminist and queer anti-racisms often have arisen in close relationship, if not as one, reflecting deep collective and theoretical bonds. Yet queer/race projects also can emerge at a disconnect from feminist stakes, even as anti-racist feminisms can sustain points of tension or dissonance with queerness.

This summer research institute is inviting leading scholars in the study of race and sexuality transnationally, who productively engage the relation of such work to feminist and queer anti-racisms. Invited presenters will evaluate the epistemologies in such work and suggest specific interventions. Institute participants will deliberate unresolved questions and pose new ones, so that promising new directions may emerge in studies of race and sexuality, while clarifying how they can be engaged by feminist and queer anti-racist stakes.

Topics of presentation or discussion may include:

- characterizing current studies of race and sexuality in transnational perspective
- tracing where such studies emerge from women of color feminisms and/or queer of color organizing
- noting points of collusion or collision in feminist and queer anti-racisms; including, specifically, in queer of color and women of color feminist projects
- demonstrating where queer and feminist work on race and sexuality can, and does, interplay productively
- setting new directions in transnational studies of race and sexuality and in anti-racist sexual politics

The research institute is organized as a combined symposium and seminar. Presenters who read papers or make formal comments will dialogue with one another and with the audience, in facilitated conversations, and in break-out discussion sessions.

