

Professor Ricarda Hammer, UC Berkeley, presents:

**“From Tutelage to Suppression:
A Du Boisian Theory of Self-Government”**



Description: The canonical literature on democratization suggests that social classes, whether the working class or the bourgeoisie, tend to be the prime movers of democratic transitions and expansions. This literature tends to be methodologically nationalist and as a result often excludes entire constituencies and transnational processes, especially those pertaining to colonial subjects. Drawing on archival data from post-abolition British Jamaica, I offer a Du Boisian alternative that widens the aperture to include metropole-colonial relations and shows that the advent of liberal democracy is underpinned by a process of colonial racecraft that transforms the formerly enslaved from an improvable, to an incorrigible, Black subject. By writing the colonial world back into the paradigmatic case of the first wave of democratization, I reveal the racialization of self-government, as democratization produced not one but two subjects: the rights-bearing person and the racialized subject.

Ricarda Hammer is Assistant Professor in the Department of Sociology at the University of California - Berkeley. Her work sits at the intersection of global sociology, the sociology of race, historical sociology, social theory, and anticolonial thought. Her book project explains how democratization was made compatible with colonial extractive projects through renewed constructions of race. Hammer's research has been published in *Sociological Theory*, *Sociology of Race and Ethnicity*, *Political Power and Social Theory*, and *Teaching Sociology*. She received her Ph.D. from Brown University and she was a Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor.

Thursday
April 4, 2024
12:30-2:00pm

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