

Professor Cedric de Leon Presents:

"Why 1861? Slavery, Settler Colonialism, and the Coming of the American Civil War"



Description: Why did the U.S. Secession Crisis and Civil War begin in 1861 and not before? Existing explanations emphasize the role of elite interests, especially planter interests, in precipitating the crisis, but northern and southern elites tended to be diehard unionists. Drawing on a content analysis of speeches, party newspapers, and private papers as well as ward- and precinct-level electoral returns from 1844 to 1861, I argue that the timing of the Civil War tracks with the emergence of two insurgent political projects that posed competing modes of articulating slavery to white settler colonialism.

Cedric de Leon is Associate Professor of Sociology and Director of the Labor Center at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. He is the author and editor of five books including *Crisis! When Political Parties Lose the Consent to Rule* (Stanford University Press 2019). In a previous life he was by turns an organizer, rank-and-file activist, and local union president in the U.S. Labor Movement.

2019

**Thursday, September 26
12:30-2:00 p.m.
Parkes Hall
Room 222
1870 Sheridan Road
Evanston Campus**

Coffee will be provided

**For more information
Call (847) 491-5415**