

Professor Jordanna Matlon Presents:

"Racial capitalism and imaginaries of black masculinity from colonialism to crisis "



Description: In "Racial capitalism and imaginaries of black masculinity from colonialism to crisis," I explore labor narratives and imaginaries of black masculinity in urban Africa and the African diaspora, with a focus on Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire. In doing so I establish how racialized imaginaries of the ideal man shifted in response to changing capitalist regimes, examining the period from colonialism to crisis as a narrative arc with an emphasis on the crisis moment. Complemented by an analysis of black masculinity vis-à-vis capitalist processes of production, consumption and commodification, I draw on fieldwork I conducted from 2008 to 2009 on the livelihoods and lifestyles of underemployed Abidjanais men to illuminate the sustained power of imaginaries even while capitalism affords a deficit of real opportunities.

Jordanna Matlon is an assistant professor at American University's School of International Service. Her research examines racial capitalism in Africa and the African diaspora, and the ways "blackness" as a signifier – and in its intersection with gender, class, and national identity – illuminates our understanding of popular culture, postcoloniality and neoliberalism in the contemporary city.

2019

**Thursday, November 7
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**