

**THE SOCIOLOGY UNIT, DEPARTMENT OF BEHAVIOURAL SCIENCES
THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES, ST AUGUSTINE
&
THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SCIENCES, SOUTH CAROLINA STATE
UNIVERSITY**

Invite you to a third virtual seminar

Black Diversities

January 31, 2025

About the Seminar

In *The Birth of African-American Culture* (1976), Sidney Mintz and Richard Price foreground the importance of historical conditions and diversity in the making of the multicultural Atlantic World. At the end of the conclusion Mintz and Price write, “the past must be viewed as the conditioning circumstance of the present,” meaning current struggles within and over contemporary institutions reflect concerns of the past. They also underscore the imaginative elements of New World-making, “for those who became its peoples remade it, and in the process, they remade themselves” (84).

We take this consideration of the re-making of self, societies and groups as the starting point for this seminar. We recognize the socio-historical conditions of plantation America shaped by the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade, and the legacies that reverberate with structural inequalities at present along with the diverse experiences, circumstances and systems within the Caribbean and the Americas. But we also situate Black outside of ‘African’ and ‘African-ness’ more broadly to challenge narrow ideological framing that has come to shape institutions, worldviews, nationhood and cultural identity in the twenty-first century.

Ideas of the ‘Dougl’a’ and ‘Hak Gwai’ for example, challenge the monolithic categorization of Blackness across the Atlantic and Indian Oceans. For African-South Asian and African-Chinese descended persons in the Caribbean and Asia, these terms signal lived multiculturalism that complicate notions of rigid racial, linguistic, religious, and ethnic classifications. Taking these figures of the Dougl’a and the Hak Gwai as heuristics to center the ambivalence of rigid racial classifications in the making of modern subjectivities, in this seminar we aim to highlight the diversity within the Black experience with a particular focus on cultural and political solidarities, and social histories.

Program [Start time - 9am EST]

[All times are in EST]

8:30 The Zoom link will be open at this time.

[Registration required] Zoom link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZl0f-CrQD4qHNQhxFJohSIj8QIUejKC8AnM>

- 8:50** **WELCOME**
Alison Mc Letchie, South Carolina State University
- 9:00** **CULTURAL AND POLITICAL SOLIDARITIES**
Alison Mc Letchie – Moderator
- 9:00-9:20 Crystal Kwok, The University of Hong Kong
9:20-9:40 Shanshan Lan, University of Amsterdam
9:40-10:00 Q&A/Discussion
- 10:00** **SOCIAL HISTORIES: BOUNDARY-SHIFTING AND
BOUNDARY-MAKING**
Omme-Salma Rahemtullah, FoodShare, South Carolina – Moderator
- 10:00-10:20 Sue Ann Barratt & Aleah Ranjitsingh, University of the West
Indies/Brooklyn College
10:20-10:40 Sheila Rampersad, Trinidad and Tobago
10:40-11:00 Q&A/Discussion
- 11:00** **KEYNOTE**
11:00-11:30 Shobana Shankar, Stony Brook University
- 11:30-12:00 Shelene Gomes, University of the West Indies – Moderator
Q&A/Discussion

END