

2012 THEORY WORKSHOPS

The Theory Workshop aims to support Master's and PhD level students in their efforts to engage with theory through research and conceptual/theoretical endeavors. Presenters will show students how they have applied a theoretical framework or set of theoretical presuppositions to a particular question of interest to them. We'll see you there!

RACIAL VIOLENCE AND THE COSMOPOLITAN CITY

Presenter: Renisa Mawani, Associate Professor, Department of Sociology
Thursday, May 3rd from 4:30 PM- 6:30 PM
Ponderosa Annex G Lounge
Light refreshments will be served.

Dr. Mawani argues that cosmopolitanisms, as visions of living with difference, and racisms, as political regimes of subjection, are mutually constitutive. Although many scholars have made this point regarding earlier versions of cosmopolitanisms emerging largely from the work of Kant, proponents of its new articulations have often conceptualized their renewed formulations, detached from Eurocentric histories and newly expanded to include the migrant, refugee, and subaltern, as promissory visions of conviviality and thus as an antidote to racisms. Despite efforts to expand cosmopolitanisms to include those previously excluded, these visions may be productive of new, renewed, and changing forms of racial subjection that demand more careful attention. Drawing upon recent critiques of cosmopolitanism, Dr. Mawani argues that racisms may be an immanent logic manifest in the racial heterogeneities and differentiations upon which cosmopolitical visions depend and in the cosmopolitan outlook these encounters are thought to require.

SPEAKER BIO:

Dr. Mawani's 2009 book *Colonial Proximities* explores the multiple ways in which colonial authorities governed encounters between Chinese migrants, aboriginal peoples, 'mixed-race populations' and European settlers in late-nineteenth and early-twentieth-century British Columbia. She is also working on a project entitled 'Legalities of Nature,' which examines the interrelations and interconnections between law, nature, and culture. Finally, Dr. Mawani is working on *The Komagata Maru: A Global Voyage in the Age of Empire*, which traces the journey of the iconic ship that carried 376 Punjabi laborers from Hong Kong to Canada, making numerous stops along the way.

RECOMMENDED READINGS:

Cheah, Pheng. (2006). Cosmopolitanism. *Theory, Culture, and Society*, 23(2-3), 489-496.

Gilroy, Paul. (2004). Chapter 2, Cosmopolitanism contested. In *Postcolonial melancholia*.
New York: Columbia University Press.

Harvey, David. (2000). Cosmopolitanism and the banality of geographical evils.

Public Culture, 12(2), 529-564.

Kant, Immanuel. (1795). *Perpetual peace: A philosophical essay*.

Contact Autumn at alk1959@interchange.ubc.ca to RSVP.

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