

# CROSSING DISCIPLINES

Comparative Studies Colloquia on Interdisciplinarity

## Race in the Anthropocene

Colloquium Leader

The unrelenting rise of interests in the Anthropocene shows that the term has been highly informative, even sweeping an important array of fashionable concepts like the “post-human” or even the “post-colonial”. Yet many histories and socio-political narratives have also been (perhaps even deliberately) excluded by this concept. In a recent paper, Simon L. Lewis and Mark A. Maslin (2015) suggest that one of the most reliable dates for the beginning of the anthropocene is 1610, which marks the moment the “World-System” enters human history through the geological marker of a dip in Atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> caused by the tragic loss of human populations arising from European imperial expansion in the Americas. This seminar will engage – and attempt specifically to revive – those histories rendered invisible by this new theoretical naming. More specifically, we will ask questions such as “does the ‘anthropos’ of the anthropocene have a race (or a gender)”; or “what kind of violence has this new economy of universalization committed on ‘racialized’ bodies”. Selected readings will be provided in advance.

\* A short note on this meeting: I am currently part of the organizing team for a workshop on race and the anthropocene, which will take place at the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg (South Africa) on August 11-16, 2016. To prepare for this workshop, preliminary meetings will be held at Penn State University in which I will be involved via Skype. Should anyone be interesting in taking part in this exciting event, please contact me at: [kareraaxie@gmail.com](mailto:kareraaxie@gmail.com)

**Axelle Karera, Ph.D.**



Axelle Karera, received her Ph.D. from The Pennsylvania State University in 2015 with a dissertation entitled “Re-theorizing Fanon through Derrida, Deleuze, and Mbembe”. Her areas of specializations are in 20<sup>th</sup> century continental philosophy, critical philosophy of race, Africana philosophy, and feminist philosophy. She has published in the *Journal of Critical Philosophy of Race* and her current work addresses questions of displacement, postcolonial forms of oppression and resistance, racism, and xenophobia as they paradoxically unfold within the context of globalization. These questions are approached through the lenses of a particular problematic: that of violence inflicted on so-called “citizens of the world” in an age of acute border control. Karera has begun working on her first manuscript, which is now tentatively entitled *When Death is Overwhelmed: War and Genocide in the Great Lakes Region*.

**Wednesday, April 13, 2016  
1-3 p.m. in CU 301**

The **Crossing Disciplines** colloquia promote the exchange of ideas across disciplines, fomenting the Comparative Studies Ph.D. Program's philosophy that topics in the arts, humanities and social sciences are most fruitfully understood through comparative modes of analysis that include an ever-changing landscape of theory and methodologies. For more information, contact Michael J. Horswell, Ph.D. — [horswell@fau.edu](mailto:horswell@fau.edu)

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