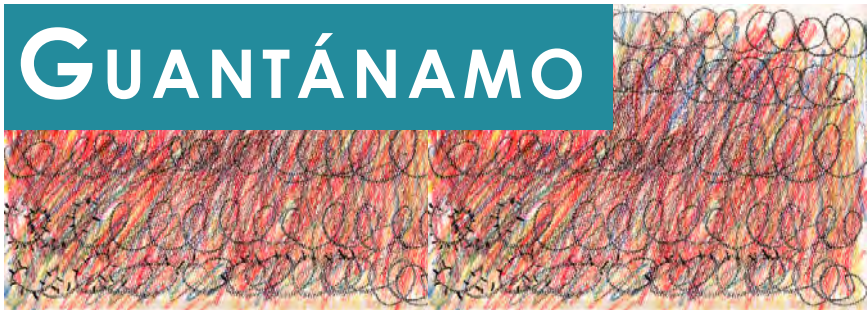


CURATING

GUANTÁNAMO



MARCH 28 & 29, 2013

NEW BRUNSWICK, NJ

RUTGERS

School of Arts and Sciences

DEPARTMENT OF AMERICAN STUDIES &
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

CURATING GUANTÁNAMO

Since 9-11, “Guantánamo” has become an international symbol of the United States’ War on Terror and a lightning rod for debates about torture, detention, national security, and human rights. But the US naval station at Guantánamo Bay – also known by its military acronym “GTMO” or its nickname, “Gitmo” – has been a part of American politics and policy for much longer. And it has been “closed” several times before, only to be put to new use.

In 2012, students at 11 universities around the country joined together as part of the Guantánamo Public Memory Project and asked: what can GTMO’s history tell us about what’s happening now—there, and here at home? They dug through historical and visual archives; talked to people who worked there, lived there, or were detained there; and explored how GTMO relates to issues, people, and places in their own communities. Each student team created a piece of the Project’s first traveling exhibit, sharing their discoveries—and the difficult questions they struggled with. Organized around this exhibit, “Curating Guantánamo” further explores the layered histories of GTMO, and the far-reaching implications of this site

To learn more about the exhibit’s creation, and the Guantánamo Public Memory Project, please visit: gitmomemory.org

SPONSORS

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POETIC JUSTICE: THE SHADES OF STORIES FROM GUANTÁNAMO

THURSDAY, MARCH 28, 2013, 7- 9PM

MABEL SMITH DOUGLASS READING ROOM, DOUGLASS LIBRARY

“Poetic Justice” uses art, poetry, oral histories, and legal testimony from GTMO in order to highlight the voices of groups that have been detained at the base, and prevented from narrating their experiences.

ORGANIZERS

JASMEET BAWA, Aresty Research Fellow

HAJAR HASANI, Aresty Research Fellow

PERFORMERS

SHIREEN HAMZA

ALYEA PIERCE

DENNIS SHOLLER

CONFERENCE: PUBLIC HISTORY AND PUBLIC AWARENESS

FRIDAY, MARCH 29, 2013

ALEXANDER LIBRARY TELECONFERENCE/LECTURE HALL, 4TH FLOOR

9:00 AM BREAKFAST AND REGISTRATION

9:30 AM WELCOME

KAYO DENDA and ANDY URBAN

9:45 AM KEYNOTE ADDRESS

JONATHAN HANSEN, "The Ghost of Guantánamo Past"

10:45 AM LOCATING GUANTÁNAMO AS A SITE OF IMPERIAL HISTORY:

THE U.S. AND THE CARIBBEAN

PANELISTS

- DAVID CARLSON, *Guantánamo Before the Base: Caribbean Inter-imperial Rivalry and Colonial Patterns*
- KATE MCCAFFREY, *Bases of Power: Guantánamo and Vieques in the 21st Century*
- NAOMI PAIK, *Producing the "Enemy Combatant" of Guantánamo*

MODERATOR

KATHLEEN LÓPEZ

12:15 PM LUNCH

1:00 PM CURATING GUANTÁNAMO: APPLYING PUBLIC HISTORY IN A CONTROVERSIAL NATIONAL FORUM

PANELISTS

ABIGAIL ETTELMAN
TIFFANY LOWE
VICTORIA SHERIDAN
ZOE WATNIK

2:00 PM ENGAGING A "BLACK SITE": GUANTÁNAMO'S LEGAL AND POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS

PANELISTS

- SOHAIL DAULATZAI, *Postcards From Pelican Bay to Guantánamo Bay: Reflections on Sites of Blackness, "Black Sites" and Beyond*
- JAMES YEE, *Defending Religious Rights at Guantánamo: Abuses and Activism*
- BAHAR AZMY, *Seeking Law in a Lawless Zone: The Guantánamo Habeas Litigation*

MODERATOR

SYLVIA CHAN-MALIK

3:30 PM BREAK

3:45 PM ACTIVISM, ART, AND AWARENESS: GUANTÁNAMO'S PUBLIC AND COLLECTIVE MEMORY

PANELISTS

- ELIZABETH CAMPISI, *No Es Fácil: Trauma and Creative Expression in Guantánamo during the Cuban Rafter Crisis*
- JERRY PHILOGENE, *The Ties That Bind: Historical Traumas and Abject Bodies*
- ELENA RAZLOGOVA, *Guantánamo Detentions as History*

MODERATOR

LYRA MONTEIRO

5:15 PM CLOSING REMARKS

LIZ ŠEVČENKO

BIOGRAPHIES

BAHER AZMY is the Legal Director of the Center for Constitutional Rights. Baher has pursued constitutional and human rights litigation challenging policies emerging from the so-called “war on terror,” including policies related to indefinite executive detention, extraordinary rendition, and torture. He has authored legal briefs in the Courts of Appeals and the United States Supreme Court on various human rights and international law issues, and has produced substantial scholarship on issues related to access to justice.

JASMEET BAWA is a sophomore in the School of Arts and Sciences at Rutgers studying Cell Biology and Neuroscience, but you can find her on campus writing for *The Examiner*, editing for *The Anthologist*, or tutoring middle school and high school students from New Brunswick. She hopes to find a career encouraging political activism through science, writing, and education.

ELIZABETH CAMPISI, PhD, is the Special Projects Director at the Center for the Elimination of Minority Health Disparities at the University at Albany, SUNY. She studies Cuban migration from a trauma theory perspective and works with Native American grassroots organizations on community development projects. Prior to studying anthropology, she spent a year working with the Cuban rafters in Guantánamo as a temporary employee of the Justice Department’s Community Relations Service. Her oral history of the Cuban Rafter Crisis is scheduled to be published by Oxford University Press next year.

DAVID C. CARLSON, a historian of colonial and modern Latin America, is the archivist of the Spanish Archives of Bexar County in San Antonio, Texas. He completed his dissertation, “In the Fist of Earlier Revolutions: Post-emancipation Social Control and State Formation in Guantánamo, 1868-1902” and received his Ph.D. from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 2007.

SYLVIA CHAN-MALIK is Assistant Professor of American and Women’s and Gender Studies. Her research examines the intersections of race, religion, gender, and sexuality through critical frameworks of American transnationalism and comparative ethnic studies, with a specific focus on the history of Islam in the United States. She has published in scholarly journals, edited anthologies, and other mediums, including *The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*, *The Journal of Race, Ethnicity, and Religion*, *The Cambridge Companion to American Islam*, and the Social Science Research Council’s (SSRC) blog *The Immanent Frame*. Her current book manuscript, entitled ‘A Part of Islam’: Race, Gender, and the Making of Muslim America, 1959-Present, tracks an alternative cultural history and consciousness of Islam in America from the Cold War, through the culture wars of the 1980s and 90s, and into the War on Terror.

SOHAIL DAULATZAI is the author of *Black Star, Crescent Moon: The Muslim International and Black Freedom beyond America* (2012) and is the co-editor of *Born to Use Mics: Reading Nas’s Illmatic* (2009). His writing has appeared in *Counterpunch*, *Al Jazeera*, *Souls*, *Amer-Asia*, *Basketball Jones*, and as the centerpiece in the museum catalog *Movement: Hip-Hop in L.A., 1980’s - Now*. He has written liner notes for the 2012 release of the 20th Anniversary Deluxe Box Set of *Rage Against the Machine’s* self titled debut album as well as liner notes for the DVD release of *Freestyle: The Art of Rhyme*. He is an Associate Professor in the Department of Film and Media Studies and the Program in African American Studies at the University of California, Irvine. He currently lives in Los Angeles and is working on a graphic novel.

KAYO DENDA is the Head of the Margery Somers Foster Center and the Women’s Studies Librarian at Rutgers University. She is also a member of the *Asians in the Americas and Diasporas Scholarship Collective*.

ABIGAIL ETELMAN is a first year Master's student in the Public Humanities program at Brown University. A part of the graduate and undergraduate student group involved in the Guantánamo Public Memory Project, her focus has been on expressing the various facets of life in Cuba through digital projects like audio portraits and a themed timeline. She is personally interested in the ways that we construct and reconstruct the past through the years, especially when the events involved are traumatic or shameful.

SHIREEN HAMZA is a sophomore at Rutgers studying English, Middle Eastern Literature, and premedicine. Writing and performing spoken word poetry with Verbal Mayhem has been a platform for voicing issues of social justice as well as self-expression. Living in post 9/11 America, and hearing voices of Guantánamo detainees, has taught her that indeed "injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."

JONATHAN HANSEN is Senior Lecturer on Social Studies, Faculty Associate, David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies at Harvard University. An intellectual historian by training, he is the author of *The Lost Promise of Patriotism: Debating American Identity, 1890-1920* (Chicago, 2003) and *Guantánamo: An American History* (Hill and Wang, 2011), along with numerous articles, op-eds, and book reviews on such subjects as U.S. imperialism, nationalism, cosmopolitanism, and race and ethnicity. He is currently working on *YOUNG CASTRO*, a biography of Fidel Castro (up to 1959) to be published by Simon & Schuster. Hansen's teaching includes courses on "Justice and Reconciliation after Mass Violence," "Reconciliation with Cuba," and "Intractable Conflicts" in the Faculty of Arts and Sciences and at Harvard Law School.

HAJAR HASANI is a third-year student in the Honors program at Rutgers double majoring in Comparative Literature and Middle Eastern Studies with a minor in Art History. She has a strong

interest in social justice issues and is currently involved in the Leadership Scholars program at the Institute for Women's Leadership. She is also interning at Manavi, a South Asian Women's organization focused on ending domestic violence against South Asian women.

KATHLEEN LÓPEZ is Assistant Professor in the Department of Latino and Hispanic Caribbean Studies (LHCS) and the Department of History at Rutgers University. Her research and teaching focus on the historical intersections between Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean, postemancipation Caribbean societies, race and ethnicity in the Americas, and international migration. Her book, *Chinese Cubans: A Transnational History*, will be released by the University of North Carolina Press in June 2013. It examines the history of Chinese migrants in Cuba from the mid-nineteenth century to the present through archival and ethnographic research in Cuba, China, and the United States.

TIFFANY M. LOWE is second-year master's student in cultural heritage and preservation studies at Rutgers University. Currently for her thesis, she is researching international policies that promote cultural heritage as central to socioeconomic development. She received a bachelor's in history from Stony Brook University in 2011.

KATHERINE McCaffrey is an associate professor of anthropology at Montclair State University. She has conducted long term research and written about the impact of the US Navy on Vieques, Puerto Rico. She is general editor of a public interest anthropology journal, *Anthropology Now*.

LYRA D. MONTEIRO is an Instructor in the History Department and American Studies Graduate Program at Rutgers-Newark, and a Fellow at the Institute on Ethnicity, Culture, and the Modern Experience. Her research focuses on the politics of history in various contexts, including projects on the discourse

of antiquity in the Early American Republic, and 21st-century public interpretations of the legacy of African enslavement in the New World. She has worked on a wide range of public humanities projects, and currently co-directs *The Museum On Site*, a public art project that aims to help people understand their worlds through site-specific, free public experiences that share ideas and information in accessible and stimulating ways.

A. NAOMI PAIK currently holds the Early Career Postdoctoral Fellowship from the Humanities Center of the University of Pittsburgh and is also an assistant professor of American studies, Asian American studies, women's and gender studies, and African and African Diaspora studies at The University of Texas at Austin. Her manuscript-in-progress, *Rightlessness*, reads testimonial narratives of subjects rendered rightless by the US state through their imprisonment in camps. Articles related to the manuscript have appeared in *Social Text* and *Radical History Review*.

JERRY PHILOGENE is an Assistant Professor in the American Studies and Africana Studies Departments at Dickinson College. In addition to exploring the intersections of race, ethnicity, class, and gender as articulated in contemporary visual arts, her research and teaching interests include interdisciplinary American cultural history, black cultural politics, and theories of diaspora and citizenship. She is currently working on a manuscript titled, *Traveling Diasporically: Images of Haitian Cultural Citizenship*, which examines the relationship between visual arts, citizenship, and Caribbean and Caribbean American cultural production. Her published articles have appeared in *Small Axe: A Caribbean Journal of Criticism* and *BOMB Magazine*. Her most recent essay titled "Mediations on Traveling Diasporically: Jean Ulrick Désert and *Negerhosen2000*" appears in the winter 2013 issue of *Radical History Review*.

ALYEA PIERCE is a public speaking coach, Poetry Mentor, and Hopeful Romantic who is currently a junior in the School of

Communication and Information at Rutgers University, majoring in Interpersonal Communication with a double minor in English and Linguistics. She was a finalist in the 2012 NY Knicks Poetry Slam and the 2011 NYC Teen Poetry Slam. Some of the venues she has performed at are the Apollo Theater, Broadway's New Amsterdam Theater, Columbia University, Kean University and in over 60 events at Rutgers University. She strives to be a world traveled motivational speaker and poet, teaching children the beauty of art and voice through poetry.

ELENA RAZLOGOVA is an Associate Professor of History and a co-Director of the Centre for Oral History and Digital Storytelling at Concordia University, Montréal. She has published articles on U.S. radio history and on contemporary public opinion about Guantánamo detentions. She is the author of *The Listener's Voice: Early Radio and the American Public* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2011). She is currently working on a correlative history of the "morality of snitching" in the United States and the Soviet Union during the cold war.

LIZ ŠEVČENKO directs the Guantánamo Public Memory Project from Columbia University's Institute for the Study of Human Rights. Ševčenko was Founding Director of the International Coalition of Sites of Conscience, a network of historic sites that foster public dialogue on pressing contemporary issues. Starting in 1999 as a meeting of nine sites under the auspices of the Lower East Side Tenement Museum, under her leadership the Coalition grew to an independent organization with over 250 members in more than 40 countries, and launched regional networks in Russia, South America, Asia, Africa, and the Middle East; as well as an international Immigration Sites of Conscience network and a bi-national (US and Canada) Indian Boarding Schools Project.

VICTORIA SHERIDAN is a second-year cultural heritage and preservation studies Masters student at Rutgers University. Her graduate thesis focuses on memorials and marginalized

peoples. She received her bachelor degrees in anthropology and archaeology from Boston University (2011).

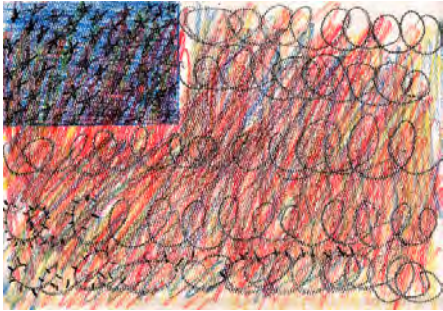
DENNIS SHOLLER is a member of the Rutgers University Slam Poetry Team and the treasurer of the Verbal Mayhem Poetry Collective. Aside from being an active player in the poetry community at Rutgers University, Dennis is a Ronald E. McNair Scholar and a research assistant in behavioral neuroscience under Dr. Mark West through the Aresty Research Center. Dennis strives to progress a movement that provides research initiatives for socio-economically disadvantaged students.

ANDY URBAN is an Assistant Professor in the American Studies and History departments at Rutgers University. He received his PhD in History from the University of Minnesota in 2009. Prior to coming to Rutgers, he worked as a Community Research Fellow at Emory University, where he researched the institutional history of race and missionary work at Emory. His current book, *The Empire of the Home: Race, Domestic Labor, and the Political Economy of Servitude in the United States, 1850-1920* (NYU Press, forthcoming, 2015), examines how the occupation of domestic service, and the “servant problem” – the voluble and persistent claims of white middle-class Americans that they were unable to find a suitable source of domestic laborers – reflected broader anxieties about the maintenance of domestic order as the United States expanded nationally, ended slavery, and encountered new sources of labor through immigration. In addition to his work on immigration, race, gender, and labor, his research and teaching interests also include public and legal history, and the cultural history of American landscapes and institutions.

ZOE WATNIK is a second year Cultural Heritage and Preservation Studies (CHAPS) MA student and a PhD candidate (Ancient Art) in the Department of Art History at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey. Her research explores international heritage preservation legislation and the impact these documents have

on nationally undertaken archaeological reconstruction and restoration projects. The GPMP provided her with the unique opportunity to address the complex themes in the public conscious of US colonialism and legal authority, outside of her typical area of interest.

JAMES YEE served as the U.S. Army Muslim Chaplain for the military prison camp in Guantánamo Bay in 2003. A graduate of West Point, Captain Yee objected to the abuse of Guantánamo prisoners. Subsequently after a very public and high profile arrest, he was imprisoned for 76 days in solitary confinement and falsely accused of aiding the terrorist enemy. Months of government investigation led to all criminal charges being dropped. In January 2005, Chaplain Yee tendered his resignation from the U.S. Army and received an Honorable Discharge. Chaplain Yee authored the book *For God And Country: Faith and Patriotism Under Fire*, a gripping insider’s account of Guantánamo’s military prison camp. He was featured in TIME Magazine’s special 9/11 tenth anniversary issue and the CNN/HBO documentary “Beyond 9/11: Portraits of Resilience.” Captain James Yee holds a Master of Science degree in International Relations.



COVER IMAGE: Drawing by Jenny Vegas Cordoba, a 13 year-old Cuban refugee detained at Camp McCalla #1 in the mid 1990s.

PROGRAM DESIGN: Nicole Heater