

The Department of Black Studies

presents:

Rafael Mota

Department of Black Studies Dissertation Scholar



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11 AM

UCEN Flying A Studios Room

Liberal Penalty and the New Imperialism of the 19th and 20th centuries

How have national security, law and order, and societal defense come to entail criminal surveillance, mass incarceration and general confinement for racially subordinate populations across the globe? What are the historical links between the modern penal system and Military-Keynesianism as a driving force in the world-scale accumulation of capital? This lecture addresses these questions through a re-examination of the “world problem of the color line” in the 20th century but understood within the framework of global-racial regimes. The latter, as Kelvin Santiago-Valles has argued, describes the world-historical conjunctures and shifting patterns between hegemonic epistemes, structures of global governance and counter-hegemonic movements constitutive of racial capitalism and its colonial division of labor. The late 19th century bore witness to such a transition, as the global threat of revolution and the impending collapse of world-capitalism compelled core-states to develop new modes of social regulation and dominant knowledges to contain overlapping waves of social unrest and open new conduits of capitalist expansion. Within this shifting terrain of interstate struggle, policing and penal forms of disciplinary confinement develop concomitantly with social welfare and the disciplinary norms of consumerism and mass culture as racialized patterns of social regulation articulating relational arrangements of surplus production and capitalist accumulation and opening a new phase of capitalist expansion path dependent on imperialism and military- Keynesianism.

Rafael Mota is a Ph.D. Candidate in the Philosophy, Interpretation and Culture Program at the State University of New York, Binghamton. His dissertation, “Global Racial Regimes and Capitalist Accumulation on a World Scale,” examines the world-historical patterns of race-making and capitalist accumulation throughout the Atlantic periphery that undergirded the rise of US hegemony during the long-twentieth century. This research explores the interactions of colonialism and liberal penalty in the formation of Military-Keynesianism as the engine of world-scale capitalist accumulation and the shift of modern governance from the liberal-imperial state to a welfare-carceral state. He is particularly interested in the interactions of race, gender and sexuality in the historical formation of capitalism and social classes. Rafael earned his B.A. in Philosophy from Boston College.