The Department of Black Studies
presents:

Gregg Santori

Wednesday, May 16
11 AM
UCEN Flying A Studios Room

"Sula and the Sociologist: Toni Morrison on American Biopower after Civil Rights"

This paper examines maternal violence and inter-civilizational contact in Toni Morrison's novel *Sula*. *Sula* ends with a chapter entitled "1965"; I therefore take the entire story to be a rebuttal to the 1965 Moynihan *Report* and the normative sociology the *Report* represents: specifically the pathology the *Report's* attaches to matriarchal families and its calls for cultural and behavioral normalization. I conclude by claiming that *Sula's* figurative treatment of maternal violence and racial uplift—represented by fire and water—suggests a preference for a truly political relationship between black and white Americans over the increasingly moral, disciplinary, and bio-political relationship the *Report* epitomizes.

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