

Neoliberalism Spaces of Contention

RUTGERS

Centers for Global Advancement
and International Affairs

April 14-15, 2017

Ruth Dill Johnson Crockett Building
Conference Room
162 Ryders Lane
New Brunswick NJ 08901

*Parking is available in Lot 71A on Ryders Lane
near Labor Center Way*

*Sponsored by Sociology, the School of Arts
and Sciences, Women's and Gender Studies,
the Institute for Research on Women, the
Institute for Women's Leadership and
Douglass Residential College*

Conference Organizer: **Prof. Zakia Salime** Sociology Graduate Students: **Alex Demshock** and **Jomaira Salas**

Contact: ald166@scarletmail.rutgers.edu with questions

Friday, April 14, 2017

9:00 am Introductions

Zakia Salime Associate Professor of Sociology and Women's and Gender Studies

Welcoming Remarks: **Rick Schroeder** Dean of Social and Behavioral Sciences

9:30 am Panel 1: Community Organizing

Hadiya Abdelrahman Refugee Resettlement

New realities of resettled refugees in the US: difficulties and hope

Carolina Alonso Bejarano Rutgers University

'Antonia Roberta': A Grassroots Approach to Ethnography

Nadir Bouhmouch Film Maker

Peasant's Environmental and Land Rights in the Face of Neoliberal Development

Rapheal Randall and **Kat Engelman** Youth United for Change

Community Control: Revitalization & Reuse of Human Potential Through Schools

Chair: **Jomaira Salas** Rutgers University

12:00 pm Break

12:15 pm Lunch

1:15 pm Panel 2: Sexuality, Embodiment, and Securitization

Debanuj DasGupta University of Connecticut

Transgender Detention & the Geography of Human Rights

Michael Ralph New York University

The Esthetics of Sexuality in Dakar

Barbara Sutton University of Albany at SUNY

Fashion of fear: Neoliberalism, Security and the Body

Chair: **Kyla Schuller** Rutgers University

2:45 pm Break

3:00 pm Panel 3: The Racialized Ecologies of Neoliberal Urbanism

Jaime Alves College of Staten Island, City University of New York

Hay que ser Malo para no Sufrir": Neoliberal Governmentality, Racial Violence and the Politics of Radical Refusal in a Colombian Shantytown

Alex Demshock Rutgers University

Urban Invention: University City and the Death and Life of Black Place

Sam Hege Rutgers University

The History of a Food Desert: The South Bronx and its Relationship to Fast Food

Chair: **Judith Gerson** Rutgers University

4:45 pm Break

5:00 pm Film: *Landless Moroccans* by Soraya El Kahlaoui (Film Director)

6:30 pm Dinner

Saturday, April 15

8:30 am Breakfast

9:00 am Panel 1: Disruptive Communities, Geographies of Struggle

Manisha Desai University of Connecticut

The Gendered Geographies of Subaltern Struggles Against Neoliberal Development in India

Asher Ghertner Rutgers University

Neoliberalism in the air? Segregating the atmosphere in 'the world's most polluted city

Karen Rignall University of Kentucky

The Aporias of Rights in Contested Energy Landscapes: What it Means to Claim a Rightful Share in Southern Morocco

Mi Shih Bloustein School, Rutgers University

Rethinking Displacement in Peri-Urban Transformation in China

Chair: **Ali Chaudhary** Rutgers University

11:00 am Break

11:15 am Panel 2: New Ecologies of Accumulation: Leisure, faith, tourism

Attiya Ahmad George Washington University

Halal Tourism and the Spoils of War in the Middle East

Aghil Daghagheleh Rutgers University

Oil, Sugarcane and Dust storms: Spatial Politics and Ethnic Resistance Among Arab People of Iran

Scott Salmon The New School

Re-Imagining Rio: Competitive Urbanism, Spaces of Exception, and the Olympic Project

Genese Marie Sodikoff Rutgers University

Laissez-Faire in the Sixth Extinction: The Madagascar Case

Chair: **Zaire Dinzey-Flores** Rutgers University

12:45 pm End

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Hadiya Abdelrahman is a Refugee Resettlement Case Manager. She graduated from Rutgers University with a double major in Women's and Gender Studies and Middle Eastern Studies. While in college, she volunteered with refugees in Cairo, Egypt and after graduation worked with refugees in Kilis, Turkey. She is active in the Refugee Resettlement Program in New Jersey and New York City. Email: hadiya.abdel@gmail.com

Attiya Ahmad is Assistant Professor of Anthropology and International Affairs at The George Washington University. Her research focuses on the gendered interrelation of political economic processes and Islamic reform movements spanning the greater Arabian Peninsula/Persian Gulf region and South Asia. Ahmad is developing a project on halal tourism networks spanning the Arab Gulf States, South Asia, Turkey and Europe. She published *Everyday Conversions: Da'wa, Domestic Work, and South Asian Migrant Women in Kuwait* (Duke, 2017). She is the recipient of the Stanford Humanities Center, Global Humanities Center with Bogazici University, and Georgetown University's Center for International and Regional Studies. In 2017-18 Ahmad will be a LUCE/ACLS fellow in residence at Columbia University's Center for Religion, Culture and Public Life. Email: ahmada@email.gwu.edu

Jaime Alvez is Assistant Professor of Anthropology & Sociology at the College of Staten Island of the City University of New York and Researcher Affiliate at the Centro de Estudios Afrodiasporicos de la Universidad Icesi/Colombia. He is the author of the forthcoming book *Blackpolis: Crime, State Delinquency and the Struggle for Black Urban Life in Brazil* (University of Minnesota Press). Email: Jaime.Alves@csi.cuny.edu

Carolina Alonso Bejarano is a doctoral candidate in the Department of Women's and Gender Studies at Rutgers University and an NTT Professor in the Department of Latino and Caribbean Studies also at Rutgers. She is finishing a dissertation on the relationship between the colonial history of New Jersey and the present-day debates proliferating in the state regarding undocumented immigration from Latin America. She specializes in Latina feminisms and U.S. migration studies, with particular emphasis on settler colonialism and women-led grassroots immigrants' rights activism. Email: alonsoc@rutgers.edu

Nadir Bouhmouch is a young Moroccan filmmaker, photographer and environmental/social justice activist, with a bachelor's degree in both film production and international political science from San Diego State University. His first film "My Makhzen & Me" (2012) is a medium-length documentary about Morocco's Arab Spring protests: The February 20th Movement. His second film "475" (2013), a documentary feature about Morocco's rape-to-marry law, went on to win several awards at film festivals, notably one from Deutsche Wellie. Nadir Bouhmouch is also a published photojournalist. His photography and articles have appeared on Aljazeera, Le Monde, and the Middle East Eye. Nadir's photojournalism focuses largely on environmental, rural, and land rights issues in Morocco's marginalized interior regions. Email: nadirbouhmouch@gmail.com

Aghil Daghagheleh is a PhD student in Sociology at Rutgers. He received his MA in Sociology from the University of Rutgers and an MA in Social Science Research from Shahid Beheshti University (SBU) in Tehran. His interests include nationalism, ethnicity, minority politics, social movements, election, violence, and Arabs of Ahwaz. He is writing his dissertation on the formation of Arab Ethnicity in Iran at the intersection of modernization/development, nationalism and religion conversions.

Debanuj DasGupta is Assistant Professor of Geography and Women's, Gender, Sexuality Studies at the University of Connecticut. His research focuses on the global governance of migration, sexuality, and HIV, and the global circulation of ideas related to transgender identity, rights, regulation and management. Debanuj's community-based ethnography documents the human rights abuses of transgender detainees in the United States. He also engages a comparative spatial understanding of emerging regimes for the management of transgender rights (trans* governance) in India. He is the co-editor of *Friendship As Social Justice Activism: Critical Solidarities in Global Perspective* (with Niharika Banerjee, Rohit DasGupta and Jaime Grant)

(forthcoming, Chicago Press), and with Rohit DasGupta, he is the coeditor of *Queering Digital India: Activisms, Intimacies and Subjectivities*. Email: Debanuj.dasgupta@uconn.edu

Alex Demshock is a doctoral student in sociology at Rutgers. She works on race, urban geography, and the built environment in Haiti, France, and the United States. She earned her B.A. in Urban Studies and American History from Barnard College. Her dissertation is a relational study of urban renewal at the hands of empire in Marseille, Port-au-Prince, and Miami. Prior to pursuing a graduate degree, Alex worked in public and higher education in Philadelphia and Newark. Email: ald166@scarletmail.rutgers.edu

Manisha Desai is Professor of Sociology and Asian and Asian American Studies at the University of Connecticut. Her research and teaching interests include gender and globalization, transnational feminisms, and contemporary Indian society. She is the author of *Subaltern Movements in India: The Gendered Geographies of Struggle Against Neoliberal Development* (2016, Routledge); and the 2016 Special Issue of *Qualitative Sociology on Gender and Globalization* co-edited with Rachel Rinaldo. Email: manisha.desai@uconn.edu

Kat Engleman is the summer project organizer at YUC and assists the Kensington Chapter throughout the school year. She began her organizing work as a cadre member at the Baltimore Algebra Project in 2007 where she engaged in peer-to-peer math literacy work and participated in campaigns for quality education in Baltimore City. Additionally, she has a Bachelor of Science in Architecture and Environmental Design from Morgan State University (2014) and is currently a Master of Architecture & Landscape Architecture dual degree candidate at the University of Pennsylvania. Through community engagement and design, Kat wants to not only participate in grassroots efforts to change material conditions but also gain the skills necessary for envisioning and manifesting new physical spaces that radically changes the way folks live and engage with one another. Email: kenglema@gmail.com

Soraya El Kahlaoui is a doctoral candidate in Sociology at Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales, Paris. Her research explores forms of reclaiming public spaces in the context of the process of democratization spawned in Morocco since 2011. She explores the practices of space appropriation and/or resistance for occupation rights. Soraya is also an activist for the right to space (to resources, land, and housing). In this activist context Soraya met the evicted inhabitants of Guich L'Oudaya, and her documentary *Landless Moroccans* tell us their story. Email: sorayaelkahlaoui@gmail.com

Asher Ghertner is Associate Professor in the Department of Geography at Rutgers University, where he also directs the South Asian Studies Program. He has published widely on aesthetic governmentality, gentrification, and urban technics and is the author of *Rule by Aesthetics: World-Class City Making in Delhi* (Oxford University Press, 2015). He is currently carrying out two new research projects focused on (i) the cultural and aesthetic politics of air pollution in Delhi, recently declared the world's most polluted city, and (ii) vernacular land markets and flexible law making on India's urban periphery. Email: a.ghertner@rutgers.edu

Sam Hege is a doctoral candidate in the History Department at Rutgers. His primary interests lie at the intersection of industrial agriculture, urban spatial productions, and the environmental justice movement, with a particular focus on the rise of the fast food industry in the late 20th century. His work seeks to engage with social, political, and environmental infrastructures that generate "unhealthy" food options as part of the response to urban de-industrialization. Hege is also working on a digital project that maps global systems of beef production in an attempt to engage with questions of visual forms of knowledge production, energy, and technological systems. Email: sam.hege526@gmail.com

Michael Ralph is Associate Professor in the Department of Social and Cultural Analysis at New York University. He is also Director of the Metropolitan Studies program. Michael's research is concerned with citizenship and sovereignty, as well as economic and political transformation in the Atlantic world, especially Senegal, West Africa, and the US South. Michael is the author of the *Forensics of Capital* (2015, Chicago Press). He has published in *Disability*

Studies Quarterly, *Souls*, *Social Text*, *Public Culture*, *South Atlantic Quarterly*, the *Journal of the History of Sport*, and *Transforming Anthropology*. He is a member of the *Social Text Editorial Collective*, the *Souls Editorial Working Group*, and the *Editor-in-Chief of Transforming Anthropology*, the flagship journal of the Association of Black Anthropologists. Email: michael.ralph@nyu.edu

Rapheal Randall is the Executive Director of Youth United for Change (YUC), a youth-led, democratic organization with a membership comprised primarily of young people from working class communities of color, who utilize organized "people" power to improve the conditions of Philadelphia public schools. He has received both a Bachelor of Science in Design from The Ohio State University, and a Master of City and Regional Planning from the University of Pennsylvania. Before taking the helm at YUC in 2014, he worked as a product designer for Michael Graves Design Group; and later became an urban planner and designer with Interface Studio, developing community plans for nonprofits and neighborhood groups throughout North Philadelphia. His goal at YUC is to help young people of color develop their own approaches to social justice leadership, as well as embrace their roles as change agents through organizing campaigns rooted in their own needs and experiences. Email: rapheal@yucyouth.org

Karen Rignall is a cultural anthropologist and Assistant Professor in the Community and Leadership Development Department at the University of Kentucky College of Agriculture, Food and Environment. Her research addresses agrarian transformation, land tenure, rural politics, and environmental change, especially in the oasis valleys of southeast Morocco. Her ethnographic fieldwork traces shifting agroecologies and the collective dimensions of land conflict to interrogate the complexities of property and economy in the context of environmental change and immersion in global labor markets. Her recent research explores the transformation of landscapes and lands tenure through a renewable energy program in pre-Saharan Morocco, comparing solar power and extractive mining in terms of their effects on livelihoods, the creation of value in land, state territorialization projects, and collective mobilization. Email: krign2@uky.edu

Scott Salmon is Associate Professor of Geography and Urban Studies at the New School in New York City. His research focuses on the politics of urban change in a globalized world. He has published widely on the consequences of competitive urbanism and the scalar transformation of urban governance in a number of cities across the globe. His current research is focused on mega-event politics and the contested spaces of neoliberalism in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Email: salmons@newschool.edu

Mi Shih is Assistant Professor at the Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy, Rutgers University. She conducts research on urbanization, land development and conflicts, and social protests in China. She has also recently undertaken comparative work on land use planning in the US and internationally. Email: mi.shih@ejb.rutgers.edu

Genese Marie Sodikoff is Associate Professor of Anthropology at Rutgers-Newark University. Her research focuses on biodiversity conservation and low-wage labor, and on biotic and cultural extinction in Madagascar. Her current project focuses on the causes and impacts of bubonic plague outbreaks. Email: sodikoff@andromeda.rutgers.edu

Barbara Sutton is an Associate Professor of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies at the University at Albany, New York. She is affiliated with the departments of Sociology and of Latin American, Caribbean, and U.S. Latino Studies. In addition to her doctoral training in Sociology in the United States, Barbara Sutton earned a law degree in Argentina. She coedited *Security Disarmed: Critical Perspectives on Gender, Race, and Militarization* (with Sandra Morgen and Julie Novkov; Rutgers University Press, 2008) and is the author of *Bodies in Crisis: Culture, Violence, and Women's Resistance in Neoliberal Argentina* (Rutgers University Press, 2010), winner of the 2011 Gloria E. Anzaldúa book prize by the National Women's Studies Association. Her forthcoming book *Surviving State Terror: Women's Testimonies of Repression and Resistance in Argentina* is slated for publication with NYU Press. Email: bsutton@albany.edu