



The Making of Blackness Winter Seminars 2025

Organized and led by

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January-March 2025

Via TEAMS

Attendance is open to all. Request links at makingofblackness@gmail.com

This workshop is part of the research project PID2021-124893NA-I00: The Making of Blackness: A Process of Cultural and Social Negotiation from the Bottom-Up, funded by MCIN/AEI/10.13039/501100011033/



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Winter Seminars 2025

The Body as Archive I

30 January, 4pm-5:15pm (Barcelona, GMT+1)

Jehbreal Muhammad Jackson will lead us through a discussion of the benefits and complexities of researching beyond Western archives that focus on written text. We will explore alternative approaches that pose bodies as archives with special attention to those that center bodies that are afro-descended and racialized as black. Drawing on examples, provocations, and language provided by Dunham and Johnson (see readings below), we will consider how perspectives and insight from the moving bodies of those subjugated and written about can help us respond to, move beyond, or reframe gaps in colonial archives.

Readings:

- ▶ Katherine Dunham, *Dances of Haiti*, (1983). Available at: <https://archive.org/details/dancesofhaiti0000dunh>
 - ▷ “Introduction”
 - ▷ Chapter 3, “The Dances and Their Divisions”
 - ▷ Chapter 5, “Organization of the Dance Groups”
- ▶ Jasmine Johnson, “Black Dance,” *Routledge Encyclopedia of Modernism*, Taylor and Francis, (2017). Available at: <https://www.rem.routledge.com/articles/black-dance>
- ▶ Jasmine Johnson, [video] Black Dance and the Politics of Movement. Available at: <https://vimeo.com/511652469>



The Body as Archive II

27 February, 4pm-5:15pm (Barcelona, GMT+1)

Yinka Esi Graves

In this session, we will continue to explore the theme, “The Body as Archive,” through a conversation with the artist and flamenco dancer **Yinka Esi Graves** regarding her project, **The Disappearing Act**. This piece explores the African imprints in Flamenco taking the dissident body as a tool to resist and to be present despite disappearances.

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Reading Race: Boundaries

27 March, 4pm-5:15pm (Barcelona, GMT+1)

This session will take the form of a **reading group** that asks questions about how histories of race and Blackness in Morocco, Germany, and the US are (or are not) useful for studying histories of race and Blackness in Spain. What patterns emerge across geographical boundaries? What do such patterns suggest for our own scholarly approaches? What can be gained by crossing geographically defined disciplinary lines? What risks or challenges does crossing such lines entail? We propose the following readings:

- ▶ George Mariscal, “The Role of Spain in Contemporary Race Theory,” *Arizona Journal of Hispanic Cultural Studies*, 2 (1998): 7-22.
- ▶ Arne Spohr “Violence, Social Status, and Blackness in Early Modern Germany: The Case of the Black Trumpeter Christian Real (ca. 1643–after 1674)” in *Beyond Exceptionalism: Traces of Slavery and the Slave Trade in Early Modern Germany, 1650-1850*, eds. Rebekka von Mallinckrodt, Josef Köstlbauer, and Sarah Lentz (De Gruyter, 2021), 57-81.
- ▶ Chouki El Hamel, *Black Morocco: A History of Slavery, Race, and Islam* (Cambridge, 2012), Ch. 4: “Racializing” Slavery, 155-184
- ▶ We also recommend the Introduction, 1-14, but will focus on Ch. 4 during our discussion.

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