

## CRRES SPEAKER SERIES, Spring 2016

### Color Lines:

#### Sex, Race, and Body Politics in Pre/Colonial Ghana

Drawing on her recently published book about interracial sexual relationships in colonial Ghana and her new research on how indigenous historical actors in this region of West Africa have thought about and constructed blackness as a symbolic, somatic, and political signifier, Ray's talk explores how race catalyzed social and political change even in areas of Africa without large settler colonial populations. Centering Ghana in her talk Ray argues that race, rather than ethnicity alone, has powerfully shaped the historical landscape of a continent that has for centuries been at the heart of the West's racializing discourses.

### Carina Ray

Department of African and Afro-American  
Studies  
Brandeis University

Thursday, April 28, 2016  
Maple Room, IMU  
4:00-5:30pm



Carina Ray is an associate professor of African and Afro-American Studies at Brandeis University. A scholar of race and sexuality; comparative colonialisms and nationalisms; migration and maritime history; and the relationship between race, ethnicity, and political power, Carina's research is primarily focused on Ghana and its diasporas. She is the author of *Crossing the Color Line: Race, Sex, and the Contested Politics of Colonialism in Ghana* (Ohio University Press, 2015) and co-editor of *Navigating African Maritime History* (with Jeremy Rich) and *Darfur and the Crisis of Governance in Sudan: A Critical Reader* (with Salah Hassan). Her articles have appeared in *The American Historical Review*, *Gender and History*, and *Historical Reflections/Reflexions Historiques*. Carina is currently working on her new book project, *Somatic Blackness: A History of the Body and Race-Making in Ghana*.