

CRRES SPEAKER SERIES, Fall 2015

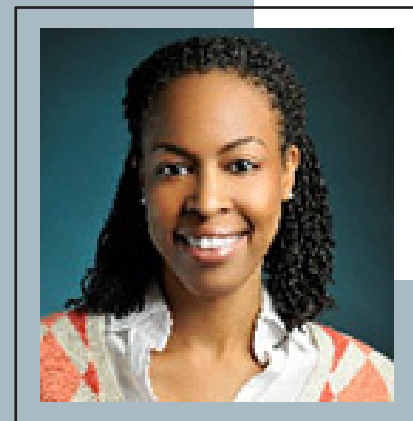
The Colored Insane: Mental Illness and 19th Century African American Life

Using Harriet Jacobs' *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl* and 19th-century archival materials from Georgia Lunatic Asylum, this talk explores how racialized psychiatric discourses came to bear on black women's lives during and after slavery. The talk will unpack how conceptions of race, gender, and insanity shaped black women's distinct experiences and perceptions of mental illness and psychiatric incarceration. I argue that nineteenth-century medical discourses made black women mad by both constructing disorders and inflicting real psychological harm within asylums, plantations, and society writ large.

Diana Martha Louis

African American and African Diaspora
Studies
Indiana University

Thursday, December 3, 2015
Maple Room, IMU
4:00-5:30pm



Diana Martha Louis earned a B.A. in English and Africana Studies, with a minor in Education, from Cornell University. She received her Ph.D. in English from Emory University in July 2014. She is currently a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Center for Research on Race and Ethnicity in Society and Visiting Assistant Professor in the Department of African American and African Diaspora Studies.