

Center for Research on Race and Ethnicity in Society

Indiana University, Bloomington

August 1, 2016 • Volume 2

Message from CRRES

Dina Okamoto, Director

Michelle Moyd, Associate Director

Jessica Smith, Administrative Assistant

Elizabeth Martinez, Graduate Research Assistant

Dear friends and colleagues,

Thank you for your participation in making 2015-16 another successful year for the Center! This year, we continued our work of supporting research on campus by funding grants for both faculty and graduate students (see page 7), and we created opportunities for interdisciplinary dialogue and networking, such as the newly established Workshop on Race, Ethnicity, and Migration (WREM) and the inaugural Graduate Student Research Symposium (see page 8 for more on new programs). Our Coffee with Affiliates continued the first Friday of each month, giving students and faculty the opportunity to engage in lively conversations over coffee and breakfast fare. Additionally, our Speaker Series highlighted a number of accomplished scholars from other universities, as well as our own CRRES

faculty affiliates and postdocs (see page 6). These talks covered a wide variety of topics, such as the history of racial passing in American life; racial inequality in schools; the role of Cherokee Women in the Long Removal Era; and sex, race, and body politics in Ghana. We hope that you will continue to join

us for the dynamic talks that we have planned for the upcoming academic year. Be on the lookout for an email announcement about the exceptional speakers that CRRES will be bringing to campus.

CRRES also had the opportunity to collaborate on a number of events throughout the year related to the Center's goals. Our collaborative partners included the College of Arts and Sciences Luminaries Program, the Center for Documentary Research and Practice, the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies, Asian American Studies, Latino Studies, Native American and Indigenous

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Join us in Schuessler 100 for Coffee with Affiliates on the first Friday of every month.



CRRES affiliates discuss research during the Workshop on Race, Ethnicity, and Migration (WREM).

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Studies, First Nations Educational and Cultural Center, Counseling and Educational Psychology Program in the School of Education, as well as the Departments of Anthropology, History, Political Science, Sociology, and Spanish and Portuguese. Co-sponsored events spanned an array of disciplines and substantive topics, including “Politics, Promises, and Possibilities: The 1965 Immigration Act at 50,” a multidisciplinary symposium on immigration in the United States today; “Red and Black: Multifaceted American Indian and African American Identities Event,” a film screening and informational talk; and the Latino/a Film Festival and Conference, which showcased Latina filmmakers, actresses, and film scholars. We look forward to co-sponsoring many more future events, with these units as well as with additional centers, departments, and programs in and outside the College.

We have also grown in numbers over the past year. Our new faculty affiliates are Clark Barwick (Kelley School of Business), Terri Francis (Media School), Alisha Lola Jones (Folklore and Ethnomusicology),

Jacob Lee (History), Jason McGraw (History), Samuel D. Museus (Higher Education and Student Affairs), Radhika Parameswaran (Media School), and Brenda Weber (Gender Studies). And we welcomed new graduate student affiliates as well: Julius Lee (School of Public Health), Alaina E.

Roberts (History), and C. Kevin Taber (Political Science).

The CRRES Postdoctoral Fellowship Program, which provides exceptionally promising recent PhDs an opportunity to conduct research and to teach at IUB, continues to develop as well. CRRES Postdoctoral Fellows are in residence for two years, and help train the next generation of scholars conducting research on race and ethnicity in the U.S. and beyond. Sean Gantt (Anthropology) and Diana Martha Louis (AAADS), the 2014-16 CRRES Postdoctoral Fellows, finished at IU in May and have moved on to their new positions (our current postdoctoral scholars are highlighted on page 9). We are thrilled that this program continues to grow and draw interest—we had a record-high number of applications this year!

We’d like to give a whole-hearted thank you to all the students and faculty who continue to participate in CRRES – you are all vital to continuing to build the CRRES community. A special thanks also goes out to the College of Arts and Sciences for continuing to support CRRES programming and staff,

and to DEMA for supporting the CRRES coffee hours. We would love to hear from you about ideas for the Center as we move into our fifth year at IU. Please don’t hesitate to send an email or to drop by the CRRES office.

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Prof. Michelle Moyd discusses race, labor, and conquest in the CRRES Speaker Series.

Faculty Affiliates

Vivian Nun Halloran (American Studies and English) organized a panel comprised of faculty and one graduate student for the Caribbean Studies Association meeting in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, June 8-11. The panel's title was "Translating Haiti for the Diaspora," and the presenters were Professors Walton Muyumba (English), Maisha Wester (African American and African Diaspora Studies and American Studies), and Professor



Halloran. The graduate student panelist was Kelly Hanson, an English Ph.D.

Candidate. The panel presentation was a great success and the panelist and attendees had a blast.

Matthew Hayes (Political Science) participated in two on-campus discussions of race and politics during spring 2016. In January, he delivered a lecture titled "Race in American Politics: Two Americas?" as part of the IU Martin Luther King, Jr. Day activities. In March, he participated in the panel "Poisoned Pipelines: Flint, Michigan & Environmental Racism" sponsored by Oxfam at IU. In addition, his article "The

Symbolic Benefits of Descriptive and Substantive Representation" (co-authored with Matthew V. Hibbing) is forthcoming at Political Behavior.

Karen Inouye (American Studies) published "Visual Games and the



Unseeing of Race in the Late Nineteenth Century" (co-authored with Bret Rothstein)

in *American Quarterly* 68:2 in June 2016. In addition, she gave a presentation on her CRRES-funded research project, titled "Vietnamese Immigrants as Fair Housing Activists in Boston," at the Association for Asian American Studies annual meeting in Miami, Florida.

Alisha Lola Jones (Ethnomusicology) received a 2016 College of Arts and Humanities Institute (CAHI) Research Travel Grant to perform music and conduct research in the U.S.



territory of Guam on Afro-Pacific women's artistic responses to #BlackLivesMatter and #SayHerName movements. Her research on music of the African diaspora in the Pacific is scheduled to be published in a special forum of the *Amerasia Journal* in 2017.

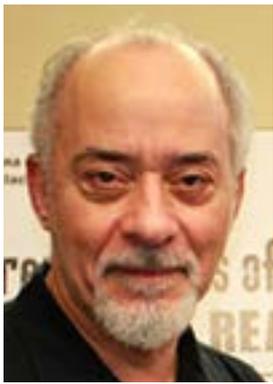
Michelle Moyd (History) received a College Arts and Humanities Institute (CAHI) Research Travel Grant to support archival research in Germany in 2017. She will conduct research for her current book manuscript project, "Soldiering On: Race, Labor and Armies of Empire in the United States and Africa, 1850-1918." Moyd was honored with a Trustees Teaching Award for 2015-2016, and participated in several international workshops and conferences in Spring 2016. She presented at "Cultural Encounters during Global War, 1914-1918: Traces, Spaces, Legacies;" traveled to Berlin to participate in the workshop "Labor, Migration and Sovereignty," co-sponsored by the IU Europe Gateway in Berlin; and chaired a panel and participated in a roundtable at the Society for Military History's annual conference in Ottawa, Canada. At IU, she served as a panel commentator for the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies (CLACS) Graduate Student Conference, and she participated in the roundtable "The State of Democracy and Human Rights in the World," at

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“Affiliate News,” continued from page 3

the opening event of the School of Global and International Studies, “America’s Role in the World: Issues Facing the Next President.” Lastly, she gave remarks at the Critical Area Studies Symposium “African Studies and the Challenge of the ‘Global’ in the 21st Century.”

Michael Martin (Cinema and Media Studies) co-edited the



book, *The Politics & Poetics of Black Film: Nothing But a Man* (IU Press), which examines the 1964 film

Nothing but a Man directed by Michael Roemer. In addition, he is editor-in-chief of the journal, *Black Camera*, which was named Journal of the Month by Project Muse Commons for its exploration of black cinema, and his paper, “Nelson Pereira dos Santos on ‘Who is Beta?’ and Such Other Dauntingly Brazilian Maladies,” was published in *Black Camera*.

During the fall 2015, Martin, in his capacity as the director of the Black Film Center/Archive, hosted a symposium titled, “From Cinematic Past to Fast Forward Present: D.W. Griffith’s ‘The Birth of a Nation’ – A Centennial Symposium,” which featured national and international scholars on film. This past spring, Martin presented a talk, titled “Trans-Historical Memory: Mediating Bondage, Past and Present,” at the State of Memory of Slavery: International Comparative Perspectives conference at the University of Ottawa, Canada.

Samuel D. Museus (Higher Education, School of Education) published a national policy report for the Asian American and Pacific Islander Research Coalition and Asian Pacific Islander Scholarship Fund, a national report for NASPA — Student Affairs Professionals in Higher Education, a monograph on Racism and Racial Equity in Higher Education, and journal articles in the *International Journal of Qualitative Studies in Education*, *Journal of College Student Development*, and *Research in Higher Education*.



Joel Wong (Counseling and Educational Psychology, School of Education) was elected to fellow status in

the Asian American Psychological Association and in the Society for the Psychological Study of Culture, Ethnicity and Race.

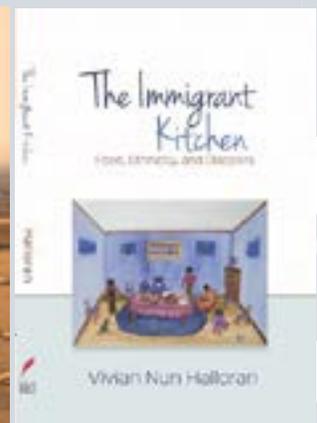
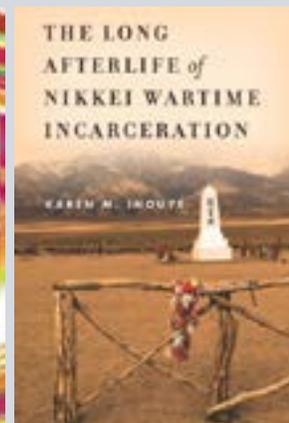
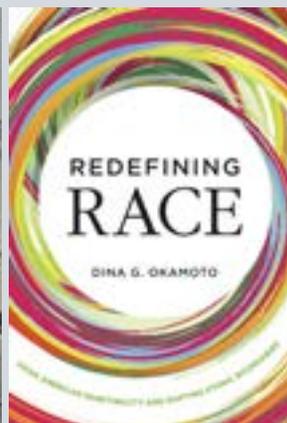
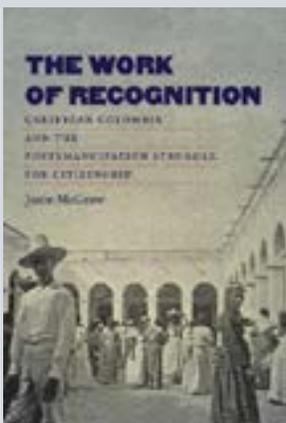
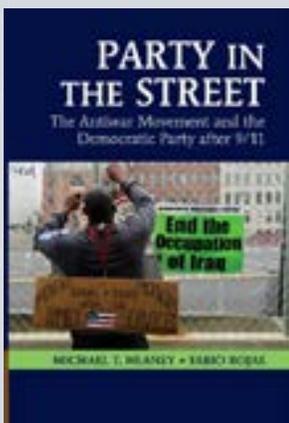
Graduate Affiliates

Jessica David (Counseling Psychology) will present her independent research at this year’s annual American Psychological



Association’s conference in Denver, Colorado. The title of her presentation is “College Student Athletes and Social Media: The Psychological Impacts of Twitter Usage,” and she will be presenting alongside two of her colleagues in a symposium.

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CRRES affiliates publish on a variety of topics. See the Affiliate Bookshelf on the Center’s webpage for more details on our faculty publications.



Ryan Davis (Higher Education, School of Education) is recipient of the 2016 Phi Kappa Phi Love for Learning

Award. Additionally, he gave an invited guest co-lecture in March 2016 in a graduate course in the School of Education at Indiana University on intra-organizational partnerships that advance diversity in higher education, as well as an invited guest lecture in May 2016 in a graduate course in the College of Education at the University of Maryland on approaches to assessment in diversity and inclusion. Davis also led a workshop in April 2016 for vice presidents, deans, and other academic staff at Wright State University on diversifying the student body in undergraduate professional programs. He co-presented four research papers in educational sessions in March 2016 at the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators and the American College Personnel Association conferences.

Tamara Mitchell (Spanish and Portuguese) passed her doctoral exams and was promoted to candidacy in the spring. She presented research on postwar Central American narrative at el Congreso Internacional de Literatura Centroamericana (CILCA) in Cáceres, Spain. Tamara assisted in preparing the inaugural issue of *Chiricú Journal* (to be released in fall 2016) as the Editorial Associate under CRRES faculty affiliate John Nieto-Phillips. She traveled to Mexico City this summer to conduct

interviews for her dissertation and to attend a seminar at the Centro de Investigación y Docencia Económicas (CIDE).

Alaina Roberts (History) is recipient of the Frederick W. & Mildred C. Stoler Research Fellowship and the Woodburn Dissertation Fellowship, both from the IU History Department.

C. Kevin Taber (Political Science) is recipient of the Harrell Rodgers Graduate Student Travel Scholarship from



the Midwest Political Science Association and of the CRRES Graduate Research Grant. In addition, Taber

received the Black Metropolis Research Consortium Short Term Summer Fellowship from the University of Chicago.

Lei Wang (Counseling Psychology) published two articles, "Cross-na-

tional Cultural Competency Among Taiwanese International Students," (co-authored with K.T. Wang, P.P. Heppner, and Chi-Ching Chuang) in the *Journal of Diversity in Higher Education* and "Comparison Between International and Domestic Graduate Students on Alcohol, Sexual Assault, and Bystander Intervention: An Exploratory Study" (co-authored with L.A. Fasone & E. L. Vaughan) in *Prevention and Health Promotion: Research, Social Action, Practice, and Training*. Wang also presented her research at the Great Lakes Regional Counseling Psychology Conference in Bloomington, IN. She was co-chair of the Programming Committee for the 2016 Great Lakes Regional Counseling Psychology Conference and recipient of the Department of Counseling and Educational Psychology Research Fellowship.



Student Affiliate Alum **Tilicia Mayo-Gamble**

In September 2015, Tilicia began a post-doctoral fellowship with the Community Engaged Research Core of the Meharry-Vanderbilt Alliance on the Meharry Medical College campus. Through this community-engaged research fellowship she is researching the effects of social support and self-management on health

outcomes (e.g. treatment adherence, pain interference, fatigue, etc.) in young adults with sickle cell disease who are transitioning from pediatric to adult care. Results of this research will inform the development of a disease self-management/social support intervention to improve health outcomes among this population.

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Speaker Series



“CRRES does vital work work on our campus by providing an intellectual hub for scholars across the disciplines who are doing research on race and ethnicity. The CRRES Speaker Series is at the heart of CRRES’s efforts to stimulate scholarly exchange, helping build new connections between established scholars from both within and outside of IU, the CRRES postdoctoral fellows, and graduate students.”

Michelle Moyd, CRRES Associate Director

A Chosen Exile: A History of Racial Passing in American Life

Allyson Hobbs
History, Stanford University

Soldiering for Empire: Race, Labor, and Conquest Armies in Africa and United States, 1850-1918

Michelle Moyd
History, Indiana University

Despite the Best Intentions: How Racial Inequality Thrives in Good Schools

Amanda Lewis
Sociology, University of Illinois at Chicago

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

Diana Louis
CRRES Postdoctoral Fellow
African American & African Diaspora Studies, Indiana University

The Awakeners: Choctaw Neo-traditional Revitalization Efforts

Sean Gantt
CRRES Postdoctoral Fellow
Anthropology, Indiana University

Challenging Her Own Master Narrative: The Dual Voices in Toni Morrison’s Home

Stephanie Li
English, Indiana University

Contending Empires, Nations, and Desires in Asian American Literature

Joe Ponce
English & Asian American Studies, Ohio State

Cherokee Women and Long Removal Era

Julie Reed
History, University of Tennessee

Color Lines: Sex, Race, and Body Politics in Pre/Colonial Ghana

Carina Ray
African & Afro-American Studies, Brandeis University



Prof. Carina Ray visits IU in April to give a talk as part of the CRRES Speaker Series.

Grant Winners

Graduate Student Research Grants

Lauren Apgar, Sociology

“The Economic Incorporation of Immigrants Across the 50 United States”

Matthew Fowler, Political Science

“White Linked Fate and Backlash: Realistic and Percieved Threats to White Group Cohesion”

Nzingha Kendall, American Studies

“Imperfect Independence: Black Women Experimental Filmmakers”

Jordan Lynton, Anthropology

“Strategic Identity Formation in Chinese-Jamaican Communities”

Kevin Taber, Political Science

“Ethnicity and Transnationalism Abroad: Shaping African Migrant Associations’ Homeland Efforts”

Graduate Student Travel Grants

Kelly Hanson, English

Douglas Peach, Folklore and Ethnomusicology

Tamara van der Does, Sociology

Faculty Seed Grants

Jennifer Lee, Sociology

“Racial Triangulation of Asians and Latinos: An Experimental Survey of the Field of Race Relations”

Cara Caddoo, History

“Race, Film, and the Lincoln Motion Picture Company”

Terri Francis, Cinema and Media Studies

“Ecstatic Instruction in African American Arts and Media”

2015 Faculty Seed Grant Recipients



Matthew Hayes,
(Political Science)

“The faculty seed grant from CRRES allowed me to begin data collection for a project investigating race and the passage of voter identification laws in the U.S. The initial data collection has led to some preliminary findings that were

central to a pending grant ap-

plication with the Russell Sage Foundation to continue this project. Thank you, CRRES, for supporting a community of scholars who share an interest in studying race!”



Jason McGraw,
(History)

“CRRES faculty seed funding allowed me to make an initial foray into the archives to gather information on the international history of Jamaican music. My research trip to Kingston, Jamaica, uncovered new insights into my topic and laid the groundwork for

a more productive follow-up excavation of information. The book that comes from this research will be much richer in detail and more nuanced in its narrative possibilities, thanks to CRRES.”



Jakobi Williams,
(History; African American
& African Diaspora Studies)

“The CRRES Faculty Seed Grant helped me to excavate several archives in the Chicago area, one of which houses court ordered sealed Chicago Police Department records.

As a result, I was awarded two

prestigious national grants for the 2016-2017 academic year. I was awarded a National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship, and I will be a fellow at the National Humanities Center. I will use the awards to complete my book project “*Neighborhoods First: The Black Panther Party as a Model for Grassroots Community Organizing and Racial Coalition Building for People Domestically and Abroad.*”

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New Programs



Student affiliate, Kevin Taber, discusses his research during the Workshop on Race, Ethnicity, and Migration.

Workshop on Race, Ethnicity, and Migration (WREM)

With help from CRRES postdoc Tristan Ivory, the Workshop on Race, Ethnicity, and Migration (WREM) was created to provide an open, interdisciplinary space for advanced graduate students and faculty to discuss their works in progress. WREM meets several times per semester, and participants circulate their research material beforehand so that other participants can provide targeted and constructive feedback.

This year, WREM hosted five meetings that included presentations from a wide variety of disciplines, including American Studies, Political Science, School of Education, Sociology, and Gender Studies.

Graduate Student Research Symposium - April 21, 2016

Boundaries, Communities & Identities: Race and Ethnicity Across the Disciplines

Panel 1: Transnationalism & Indigeneity

Tamara Mitchell, Spanish and Portuguese

“Crossing the Line: Abjection and Social Permeability in *Los ríos profundos*”

Shu-Yi Wang, Counseling Psychology

“Relationship Harmony, Dialectical Coping, and Nonattachment: Chinese Indigenous Well-Being and Mental Health”

Jordan Lynton, Anthropology

“Strategic Identity Formation and Transnational Home Building in Chinese Jamaican Communities”

C. Kevin Taber, Political Science

“Transnational Accountability Networks: Migration and Good Governance in Africa”

Panel 2: Group Boundaries & Intersectionality

Kirk Harris, Political Science

“Co-ethnicity & Patronage in Kenya’s Constituency Development Fund”

Elizabeth Martinez, Sociology

“College Course Enrollment Patterns: The Role of Instructor Last Name”

Jed Kuhn, American Studies

“The Carson 10: Murder, Gender, and Native American and Latina/o Subjectivity”

Nzingha Kendall, American Studies

“Imperfect Independence: Black Women’s Experimental Cinema”



Student affiliate, Elizabeth Martinez, presents her work at the Symposium.

Postdoctoral Scholars



Tristan Ivory (Sociology; 2015-2017) received his Ph.D. in Sociology from Stanford University. His areas of research specialization include international migration, race and ethnicity, inequality, and transnationalism. His dissertation uses ethnographic observation, interviews, contemporary news accounts, and archival data to examine the resources and strategies Sub-Saharan African migrants use to try to maximize social and economic outcomes in the Tokyo Metropolitan Region. He is currently revising articles from his dissertation research as well as writing the first chapters of his dissertation book project, tentatively titled “Greener Pastures: Sub-Saharan Africans and the Pursuit of Social Mobility in Japan.”

Hyeyoung Kwon (Sociology; 2015-2017) received her Ph.D. from the University of Southern California. Her research focuses on immigration, comparative race/ethnicity, social inequality, and family. She is working on her book manuscript, tentatively titled “Translating Race and Class: The Family Work of Bilingual Children of Immigrants,” which analyzes how racial meanings that depict Latinos as a problematic underclass and Asian-Americans as successful foreigners reverberate in the family lives of working class immigrant youth. This study is based on ethnographic research and 80 interviews with children “language brokers” who translate for their immigrant parents in racialized and English-speaking spaces of America.



Adam Bledsoe (Geography; 2016-2018) received his Ph.D. in 2016 from the Department of Geography at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. His research focuses on racialization, social movements, and struggle in the context of the African Diaspora. Adam’s dissertation draws on participatory research, archival work, and critical theory to examine the historical and contemporary struggles of Black communities in Salvador, Brazil, as they seek to defend their territories from a series of land grabs. He is currently revising articles from his dissertation and working on a book manuscript tentatively titled “Defending Our Piece of Ground: The Quilombos of the Bay of Aratu.”

Dorainne Levy (Psychological & Brain Sciences; 2016-2018) received her Ph.D. in 2016 from the Department of Psychology at Northwestern University. Dorainne’s research primarily explores how discrimination shapes affective, cognitive, behavioral, and physiological outcomes that, in turn, have implications for racial/ethnic disparities in many life domains. She is currently revising articles from her dissertation entitled “The Effects of Emotion Regulation Strategies when Contending with Discrimination Experiences.”



On April 6th, 2016, Indiana University faculty, staff, and students met in the Moot Court Room of the Maurer School of Law to take part in “Immigration, Identity, and Inclusion”—the second session of Provost Lauren Robel’s “Hot Topics” series. The series, announced in the 2016 State of the Campus address, is a new initiative “designed to engage the campus community in discussing ‘hot topics’ on the national and international stage, and to foster inclusion on the campus.” The series is meant to provide a space for students and professors to discuss difficult issues together, to challenge assumptions, and to create a more inclusive campus environment.

Persistent violence on a local, national, and international stage has punctuated recent news cycles, and recent political debates have revolved around the exclusion of individuals based on nationality and religious beliefs. Concurrently, crimes related to race, religion, and sexual orientation—for instance, the massacre at Pulse nightclub in Orlando, the murder of transgender individuals such as India Clarke, and a spike in hate crimes against Muslim Americans like the one committed by an IU student in

Provost Robel’s “Hot Topics” Series: Tackling Pressing Issues, Fostering Inclusion on Campus

Race and Ethnicity Across Campus

Written by Tamara Mitchell
Ph.D. Candidate, Spanish & Portuguese

Bloomington in October 2015—underscore how urgent and timely the goals of the “Hot Topics” series are.

Each forum is comprised of three parts: a discussion led by a panel of experts on a given topic; a Q&A among panelists, forum moderators, and audience members; and a break-out session moderated by IU students to continue the conversation in smaller groups. Despite the serious topics of discussion, the events encourage an atmosphere of community and open conversation. Pizza and other refreshments are provided, and the forum moderators, Professor Kevin Brown of the Maurer School of Law and Associate Professor Sandra Shapshay of the Department of Philosophy—both of whom also serve as Co-Chairs of the Steering Committee—encourage audience members to take part in a conversation rather than view the panel as experts delivering a prepackaged message.

CRRES affiliates have been partic-

ularly active by undertaking various roles in the Provost’s new initiative. CRRES Director Dina Okamoto serves on the Steering Committee that assists in selecting session moderators and conversation topics, and also presented on the panel for the April 6th event. In fact, all seven faculty panelists that spoke at the two spring 2016 “Hot Topics” sessions are CRRES faculty affiliates. At the inaugural “Hot Topics” forum on March 2nd, discussing the Black Lives Matter movement and the criminal justice system, CRRES-affiliated Professors Jeannine Bell, Akwasi Owusu-Bempah, and Jakobi Williams presented alongside IUB Chief Police Laury Flint. Likewise, in addition to Professor Okamoto, the April 6th panel included CRRES faculty affiliates Ishan Ashutosh, Sylvia Martinez, and Sam Museus, who were joined by Hemayatullah Shahrani, Executive Committee member of the Islamic Center of Bloomington and Kelley School alumnus.

At the March 2nd forum, Professor Owusu-Bempah argued that racism in policing and the criminal justice system is only one reason for disproportionate police brutality against black Americans and their gross overrepresentation in the U.S. prison system, presenting how economic inequality, social disadvantages, and present-day segregation (practical, not legal) contribute to the high lev-



Chief of IUB Police Laury Flint and CRRES affiliates Jeannine Bell, Akwasi Owusu-Bempah, and Jakobi Williams take questions from the audience during the March 2nd Q&A. Owusu-Bempah noted that the event allowed “an open and honest discussion about policing in America.”

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els of crime that feed racist policing practices. Following the event, Owusu-Bempah recalled that audience participation was enthusiastic, and that IU and Bloomington community members left with “potential strategies for action needed to improve law enforcement and society more generally.” This concrete outcome—providing strategies for change—is one of the foremost goals of the series.

Panelists at the April 6th forum on “Immigration, Identity, and Inclusion” discussed a wide array of topics—the constructed notion of

“How do you incorporate international students into this conversation?”

Question posed by Ko Natnatee Dokmai, a Ph.D. student in Computer Science, during the April 6th “Hot Topics” Q&A session

“immigration” and the idea of (il-)legitimate refugees; the dearth of attention to “invisible” minorities like Latina/o and Asian Americans and their status as “perpetual foreigners”; the historical longevity of the inclusion/exclusion debate in U.S. society; and the inaccuracy of political rhetoric regarding immigrants and refugees in the face of social science research. During the Q&A, multi-

ple IU international students spoke about their experiences on campus, citing instances of micro-aggressions, feelings of invisibility, and a lack of resources. Shifting the conversation from the immigrant experience to that of individuals at IU on temporary student visas, Ko Natnatee Dokmai, a Ph.D. student in Computer Science, candidly asked the panelists and the Provost, “How do you incorporate international students into this conversation?” This question was not taken lightly by the Provost and the Steering Committee, as the Provost’s Chief of Staff Catherine Dyar stated that one of the potential topics for a future forum is precisely “International Students.”

One of the most salient successes of the “Hot Topics” events has also been one of its most palpable shortcomings. CRRES Graduate Research Assistant Elizabeth Martinez, who served as a break-out session facilitator, noted that “the Q&A provided a space for thoughtful, considerate, and critically-engaging dialogue among attendees and with the panelists,” accomplishing the goal of engaging the packed room of attendees in a dialogue rather than hosting a lecture-style event. But fellow student facilitator Sidney Harris, senior in Sociology, observed that the “conversations attracted and drew individuals who were already predis-

posed to caring about these issues. As a result, much of my time as a facilitator was spent listening to people who clearly had a firm grasp of these issues, and more often than not were individuals who were themselves a part of these marginalized groups.”

This concern has not been lost on the Provost and the Steering Committee, as Chief of Staff Dyar confirmed on their behalf that a goal for improving future forums will be “to get broader student participation (i.e., not just ‘preaching to the choir’).” Strategies for how to increase participation by broader audiences may include collaboration with the Union Board and IUSA; the Hudson & Holland Scholars Program; and the First Year Experience Program, as well as maintaining a larger presence on social media. The Committee also hopes for greater attendance by individuals in the residence halls and the Greek System.

As the series is adjusted in response to participant suggestions, it will still maintain its primary goal of engaging pressing issues that affect inclusion on campus. Chief of Staff Dyar confirmed that the “Hot Topics” series will continue into the 2016-2017 academic year, with the September session focusing on “Voting and Power”—a topic that, in this particular election year, is pressing, indeed.



CRRES Director Dina Okamoto and affiliates Ishan Ashutosh, Sylvia Martinez, and Sam Museus served as panelists at the spring “Hot Topics” discussion on Immigration, Identity, and Inclusion. The series will continue throughout the 2016-17 academic year.

A Chosen Exile: A History of Racial Passing in American Life



Speaker Series Highlight: Allyson Hobbs

Written by Samuel H. Kye
Ph.D. Student, Sociology

On Thursday, September 17th, at the Neal Marshall Cultural Center, the CRRES IU community was fortunate to hear a talk by Dr. Allyson Hobbs (Stanford University), who shared work from her book, *A Chosen Exile: A History of Racial Passing in American Life*.¹ Her book documents the history of “racial passing” by black Americans from the 18th through the mid-20th century. The ability of certain blacks to “pass” as whites afforded a range of privileges and benefits, from those of common dignity—being addressed as “Mr.” as opposed to “boy”—to those that were ultimately life-saving, as was the case in avoiding the shackles of slavery through asserted and accepted white identities. In an American society where the historic legacy of the “one-drop rule” essentially predestined black subjugation, significant efforts were made by those capable of passing to maintain their appearances and, in turn, benefit from the “wages of whiteness.”²

As Dr. Hobbs convincingly argued, however, racial passing did not come without cost. Indeed, the benefits of racial passing were often paired concomitantly with tremendous loss, as “passing” blacks faced the prospect—and eventually, the reality—of losing connec-

tions to friends, family, and entire communities to which they shared strong bonds. Indeed, a focus on the grief and isolation associated with racial passing points to the depth and resilience historically evident amongst black communities, whose strong kinship networks were often formed and strengthened through the trials of racial discrimination itself (e.g. residential segregation). Especially with the advent of the civil rights era, the cost of racial passing would soon come to outweigh its privileges. This was perhaps no more evident than in the retelling of the story that inspired Dr. Hobbs’s project — that of a child from the historic south side of Chicago who, now a white woman living on the West Coast, refused to return to the symbolic and geographic roots of her past black identity, even upon learning of her father’s passing.

The historic phenomenon of racial passing continues to link to the experiences of race in the contemporary era. Indeed, a fascinating parallel is the evolution of race from solely a biological category to one that now exhibits significant cultural dimensions. A significant amount of research, for example, has examined the formation of “black” cultural capital³ and much debate has surrounded notions of “acting white” and its links to black

authenticity.⁴ As was discussed further in the Q&A, the continued persistence of racial inequality has transformed meanings of “black” beyond biological notions; today, what it means to be “black” includes experiences, tacit knowledge, and forms of expression that have directly emerged from the civil rights movement. Defined so fluidly, one could argue that racial passing, far from a historical artifact, may perhaps be even more common today as expressions of “legitimate” black identity. Yet in such a context, new dilemmas arise: Who can be considered black?; What are the criteria for a “real” black identity?; Who defines “blackness” itself? Such considerations highlight the ever-increasing complexity of race and racial identity in the modern era.

In conclusion, a final consideration worth noting: In addition to its significant theoretical and substantive contributions, the methodological work undertaken to tell the stories in *A Chosen Exile* is worth examining in and of itself. Specifically, how do you find the sources and records to tell the stories of individuals who made it precisely their aims not to be discovered? In this regard, Dr. Hobbs’s use of archives to document such a “ghost” phenomena is exemplary, and is a valuable reference to other researchers interested in the study of challenging populations.

[1] Hobbs, Allyson. 2014. *A Chosen Exile: A History of Racial Passing in American Life*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.

[2] DuBois, W.E.B. 1998 [1935] *Black Reconstruction in America*. New York, NY: The Free Press.

[3] Carter, Prudence. *Keepin’ It Real: School Success Beyond Black and White*. 1 edition. New York, NY: Oxford University Press, 2005.

[4] Fordham, Signithia, and John U. Ogbu. “Black Students’ School Success: Coping with the Burden of ‘Acting White.’” *The Urban Review* 18(3): 176–206.

meet the **Staff**

Jessica Smith just celebrated her two-year anniversary as the administrative assistant for CRRES. She maintains the CRRES office and provides administrative support for the Center's activities. She also assists with the planning and scheduling of CRRES events such as the speaker

series and workshops, and helps to design and distribute CRRES materials. Jessica earned her B.A. in Psychology at Indiana University and brings years of experience in customer service and administration.



Tamara Mitchell



Jessica Smith

Tamara Mitchell is the 2016–17 CRRES Graduate Research Assistant as of July 1st, and is a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese. Tamara's research is concerned with globalization, neoliberalism, and politics, and how these topics are treated formally and thematically in Latin American narrative published from the late-twentieth century to the present day. By examining authors such as Roberto Bolaño and Horacio Castellanos Moya, her project considers the role of art and the author in post-national literary production.

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