Theme 4: Race and the Human

Curators: Lee Medovoi (UArizona English) and Ragini Tharoor Srinivasan (UArizona English)

Lecture (open to the public): Thursday, January 14, 2021, 6-7:30pm MST

Register in advance for this meeting: https://tinyurl.com/nnc-theme-4

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Unpayable Debt

How has race been made to serve the aims of neoliberal capital, and in what ways might human rights discourses, including discourses of dehumanization and subjectivation, also be conscripted in service of capital’s ends? What is the “reason” of race? We are joined this month by Denise Ferreira da Silva, author of numerous works including the field-clearing monograph Toward a Global Idea of Race (2007), on the careers of the post-Enlightenment subject she terms the “transparent I” and the role that race has played in modern scientific and historical thought. Ferreira da Silva has shown that raciality functions through logics of exclusion and obliteration that serve capital. Her forthcoming Unpayable Debt continues her longstanding interrogation of the relationships between race, colonialism, and global capital and the question of the “im/ possibility of global/racial justice.” Our conversation will lay the groundwork for February’s seminar on neoliberalism and Subjectivity.

For more information, please go to: https://sawyerseminar.arizona.edu/january-race-and-human

An academic and practicing artist, Dr. Denise Ferreira da Silva’s work addresses the ethico-political challenges of the global present. She is the author of Toward a Global Idea of Race (University of Minnesota Press, 2007), A Dívida Impagavel (Oficina da Imaginação Política and Living Commons, 2019), Unpayable Debt (Stenberg/MIT Press, forthcoming) and co-editor (with Paula Chakravartty) of Race, Empire, and the Crisis of the Subprime (Johns Hopkins University Press, 2013). Her articles have been published in leading interdisciplinary journals, including Social Text, Theory, Culture & Society, Social Identities, PhiloSOPHIA, Griffith Law Review, Theory & Event, and The Black Scholar. Artistic works includes the films Serpent Rain (2016) and 4Waters-Deep Implicancy (2018), in collaboration with Arjuna Neuman; and the relational art practices Poethical Readings and Sensing Salon, in collaboration with Valentina Desideri. She has exhibited and lectured at major art venues around the world.