CHR ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM
APRIL 7-8, 2022

Keynote Speaker: Kara Keeling
Professor of Cinema and Media Studies, University of Chicago

Professor Keeling’s research has focused on African American film, representations of race, sexuality, and gender in cinema, critical theory, and cultural studies. Keeling is the author of Queer Times, Black Futures and The Witch’s Flight: The Cinematic, the Black Femme, and the Image of Common Sense.

Theme: Pasts/Presents/Futures

The experience of the pandemic has brought with it a heightened awareness of the complexity of time. It is at once an experience of what political theorist Elizabeth Povinelli might call the “durative present,” as the past feels irrevocably lost, and a post-pandemic future unimaginable. And yet at the same time, the racial reckoning provoked by the murder of George Floyd underscores the ways in which racialized violence infuses the present, revealing that what we had assumed to be “the past,” in fact lives on in the present. When trapped in a durative present how might we imagine a different future? These contradictory experiences of time remind us that it is neither natural nor fixed. Conceptions of time have, historically, delimited what we are able—and unable—to see, lending certain events, peoples, and subjectivities visibility while pushing others into obscurity. This symposium brings together a group of scholars from a range of humanistic disciplines, interrogating the politics and possibilities of temporal encounters.
A SYMPOSIUM AT THE CENTER FOR HUMANITIES RESEARCH
April 7-8, 2022

Thursday, April 7

5:00 -6:15 pm Introductory remarks (CHR Director Alison Landsberg) followed by Keynote Address by Professor Kara Keeling, "Marvels of ... Inventiveness': The Times of Black Studies"

Friday, April 8

11:00 am-12:30 pm Panel One: Media Memories

12:30-1:30 pm Professor Kara Keeling's symposium seminar with undergraduate students (closed session)

1:30-2:30 pm Lunch break (Zoom open for socializing)

2:30-3:45 pm Panel Two: Temporal Confrontations

4:00-5:15 pm Panel Three: Colonizing/Decolonizing Time

5:15-5:45 pm Concluding discussion

The George Mason University Center for Humanities Research is one of Mason’s five transdisciplinary research centers for advanced study and is generously supported by the Provost’s Office and the College of Humanities and Social Sciences.

REGISTRATION LINK: CLICK HERE!
Media Memories *(with Emily Brennan-Moran as discussant)*
Natalia Dudnik (Mason), “Witnessing the Memory of the Leningrad Siege in Transnational Perspective”

Hatim El-Hibri (Mason), “Direct Address, Affect, and the Genres of Livestreaming in Revolutionary Times”

Max Munday (Sheffield Hallam University), “Moving constellations of social haunting”

Ian Sinnett (Mason), “Once Again Back is the Incredible”: Hip Hop Sampling as Living Cultural Memory”

Temporal Confrontations *(with Eric Ross as discussant)*
Chris Pizzino (Mason; University of Georgia), “Futures Foreclosed: Science Fiction Films About the South”

Jennifer Ritterhouse (Mason), “Filling the Blank Page: Feminist Memory and Activism in the 20th-Century U.S.South”

Amy Sodaro (Borough of Manhattan Community College, City University of New York), “Greenwood Rising and the politics of past/present/future”

Colonizing/Decolonizing Time *(with Yasemin İpek as discussant)*
Laura Crossley (Mason), “Beyond Specters of the Past and Participants in Modernity: Indigenous Futurity and Temporal Sovereignty at the 1904 World’s Fair”

Helena Yoo Roth (The Graduate Center, City University of New York), “American Timelines: Imperial Communications, Colonial Time-Consciousness, and the Coming of the American Revolution”

Dave Zeglen (Mason), “Mao’s Permanent Revolution as Communist Temporality”
SYMPOSIUM PARTICIPANTS

Emily Brennan-Moran is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Communication at George Mason University. Her research focuses on the ethics and politics of commemoration. She works in the areas of performance studies, memory studies, and critical cultural studies, and her writing has appeared in Text and Performance Quarterly and Liminalities: A Journal of Performance Studies.

Laura Crossley is a History PhD candidate at George Mason University, specializing in digital history and Indigenous histories. Her dissertation project examines how political debates over land, statehood, and Native sovereignty in the American West played out at the 1904 Louisiana Purchase Exposition.

Natalia Dudnik holds a PhD in German Studies from the University of Illinois at Chicago and a Graduate Certificate in e-Learning from George Mason University. Her area of interest is Memory Studies at the intersection of German and Russian contexts.

Hatim El-Hibri is Assistant Professor of Film and Media Studies at George Mason University. His first book is Visions of Beirut: The Urban Life of Media Infrastructure, published in 2021 by Duke University Press.

Yasemin İpek is an Assistant Professor in the Global Affairs Program at George Mason University. Her book project theorizes the relationship between politics, ethics, and temporality by examining the popularization of activism in contemporary Lebanon. Her work has appeared or is forthcoming in journals such as Cultural Anthropology, American Ethnologist, The Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute, and Turkish Studies.

Kara Keeling is a Professor in the Department of Cinema and Media Studies at the University of Chicago. Keeling’s research has focused on African American film, representations of race, sexuality, and gender in cinema, critical theory, and cultural studies.

Alison Landsberg is Director of the Center for Humanities Research at George Mason University, and Professor of History and Cultural Studies. She is the author of Prosthetic Memory: The Transformation of American Remembrance in the Age of Mass Culture (Columbia UP, 2004), Engaging the Past: Mass Culture and the Production of Historical Knowledge (Columbia UP, 2015) and numerous articles and book chapters. She is currently working on a project called “Post-Postracial America,” which examines the contemporary eruption of discourse about race on both the political left and right, in mass culture.
Max Munday is an arts-based PhD researcher working principally with the body, movement and sound to open up ways of attending to the presence of troubling antisemitic pasts and possible utopian futures. Between 2015-2018, he was part of the research team at Manchester Metropolitan University exploring 'social haunting'. He has worked in community broadcasting and has made a series of impactful radio documentaries about this 'social haunting' research.

Chris Pizzino is a Visiting Associate Professor at Mason, visiting here from the University of Georgia. His teaching and research interests include contemporary literature and film, comics and graphic narratives, genre theory, and image theory.

Jennifer Ritterhouse is a Professor of History at George Mason University, where she teaches classes on African-American and women's history, citizenship, and the U.S. South. She is the author of Growing Up Jim Crow: How Black and White Southern Children Learned Race and Discovering the South: One Man's Travels Through a Changing America in the 1930s, as well as a number of articles. Her current work focuses on women's rights activism in Virginia and other southern states.

Eric W. Ross is a PhD candidate in Cultural Studies at George Mason University. His research interests include Museums, public memory and cultural policy.

Helena Yoo Roth is a PhD Candidate in American History at the Graduate Center of the City University of New York. Her dissertation examines the development of colonial time-consciousness in the decades leading to the American Revolution. Her work has been supported by many institutions including the Massachusetts Historical Society, the American Philosophical Society, and the Omohundro Institute.

Ian Sinnett is a PhD student in Cultural Studies at George Mason University. His research interests are in popular music, cultural memory, and affect theory, with a particular emphasis on the ways in which cultural/collective memories interact with, are evoked through, and are embedded within popular musical forms.

Amy Sodaro is Associate Professor of Sociology at the Borough of Manhattan Community College/CUNY. Her research focuses on memorialization of atrocity in memorial museums. She is author of Exhibiting Atrocity: Memorial Museums and the Politics of Past Violence (2018) and co-editor of Museums and Sites of Persuasion: Politics, Memory and Human Rights (2019).

David Zeglen is a PhD candidate in Cultural Studies at George Mason University. David’s doctoral dissertation is on theorizing a cultural theory of uneven and combined development from an Althusserian perspective.