



Department of Anthropology

Job Talk

Anthropology of Race, Racisms, and Racialization

All faculty and students are welcome

Matthew Chin

Assistant Professor, Fordham University, NY

Between Tourism and Pocomania

The politics of race and sex in late colonial Jamaica (1948-1962)

This talk revisits the period immediately preceding Jamaica's independence from England in 1962 to consider how queerness plays into the transformations in the politics of Black sexuality taking place across the island. In so doing, it uses historical inquiry as a critical intervention into racialized discourses that situate Jamaica in terms of homophobic exceptionalism in the present. Drawing on close readings of mid-twentieth century Jamaican social science texts, news media, and literature, I argue that the archival possibilities of queerness on the island in this era coalesce in the figures of the White male tourist and the practitioner of the Afro-creole religion, Pocomania. Ultimately, I consider the implications of how queerness comes to be inscribed in Jamaican history through different iterations of race, class, gender, and nation, on contemporary discourses of sexual citizenship on the island.

Friday January 24, 2020

11:30am-1:00pm

2043 VARI HALL, Department of Anthropology

Light refreshments will be served

liberal arts &
professional studies

