

Department of Anthropology

Job Talk

Anthropology of Race, Racisms and Racialization
All faculty and students are welcome



Celina de Sá

Postdoctoral Fellow, University of Pittsburgh, PA

Uprooting Origins

Racial Self-Making and Diasporic Cultural Production in West Africa

This talk will address how contemporary expressive cultural projects in Lomé, Togo, and Dakar, Senegal highlight processes and practices of racial self-making germane to the lives of urban West Africans. By looking at West African capoeira groups—a martial art developed by enslaved Afro-Brazilians in colonial Brazil—we see how young people in the region creatively leverage the historical ties across the black Atlantic as resources for facing the particular challenges of postcolonial precarity, and other legacies of imperialism. Through performance, infrastructure and community-building, these martial artists demonstrate some of the ways in which young West Africans are putting capoeira to “work,” mobilizing the diaspora as a technology to create new narrative and agential possibilities to define their own Africanness.

Wednesday, January 29, 2020

12:00-1:30pm

2043 VARI HALL, Department of Anthropology

Light refreshments will be served