

RACE MATTERS: UNDERSTANDING A GLOBAL CRISIS COLONIAL & POSTCOLONIAL ENCOUNTERS: THE HORN OF AFRICA & ITALY

Thursdays, 4:00 pm in 1008 Humanities

FEB 25, 2016



Lee Cassanelli, University of Pennsylvania

Visions of 'La grande Somalia': Fashioning Culture and History in Italian East Africa

The lecture explores how the Italian Fascist administration in Somalia (1923-1941) envisioned its imperial mission and sought to construct a Somali past which conformed to that vision by looking at two concerted efforts by the colonial government to assemble local artifacts and oral traditions as part of its campaign to build "la Grande Somalia": the opening of the Garesa Museum in Mogadishu and colony to the directive to collect oral traditions from the Somali clans which straddled the border with Ethiopia.

MAR 3, 2016



David Forgacs, New York University

The Blackening of East Africans in Italian Ethnographic Discourse, 1890-1940

From the 18th to the early 20th century, European travelers and anthropologists often described northern Ethiopians as "white" or "pale-skinned", but when Italy invaded Ethiopia in 1935 its various peoples were collectively "blackened" by Italian writers and photographers. This talk shows how and why this peculiar turnaround happened.

MAR 24, 2016



Sara Marzagora, SOAS, University of London

Colonialism and Coloniality in the Political Thought of Amharic-speaking Intellectuals, 1900s-1960s

The lecture will trace the changes in the way Amharic-speaking intellectuals in Ethiopia theorised and discussed European, and particularly Italian, colonialism, from an initial negation of the colonial dimension, and of Ethiopia's connections to coloniality, to the increasing centrality that colonialism and coloniality gained in Ethiopian political thought starting from the late 1950s.

APR 28, 2016



Daniele Comberiati, Université Paul-Valéry Montpellier 3

"Democratic Colonialism" and National Identity: Cultural Representations of Italian Somalia 1950-1960

The lecture traces the history of the Italian Trusteeship Administration in Somalia (AFIS) from 1950 to 1960, showing to what extent this experience can be considered an example of "democratic colonialism". The lecture also analyzes cultural representations of AFIS and its fundamental role in shaping contemporary Italian identity.

MAY 5, 2016



Emma Bond, University of St. Andrews

Photography as Memorial Intertext in Diaspora Narratives: New Writing by Maaza Mengiste, Nadifa Mohamed and Igiaba Scego

The lecture will explore the use of primary photographic sources in narratives dealing with the Italian colonial era in the Horn of Africa by second generation and diaspora writers. Engaging with theories of the construction of difference in colonial photographs, as well as those emphasising the importance of the gaze and of the physicality of images themselves, she will argue for a re-evaluation of the role of photographs as intertext in recent works by Nadifa Mohamed, Maaza Mengiste and Igiaba Scego.

For further information,
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