Film Quarterly and the Film Society of Lincoln Center

present

“Dimensions in Black”

A Special Film Quarterly Dossier, Vol. 71 No. 2, Perspectives on Black Cinema

Amphitheater, Elinor Bunin Munroe Film Center

December 5, 2017

Adepero Oduye and Aasha Davis in Pariah (Dee Rees, 2011)
“Dimensions in Black: Perspectives on Black Film and Media”

Welcome to the launch of the new issue of Film Quarterly and a conversation on race and representation by the dossier’s editors and contributors.

This past spring, in the heady aftermath of the Oscar win for Barry Jenkins and Moonlight and the multiple nominations of Raoul Peck's I Am Not Your Negro, FQ’s Regina Longo and B. Ruby Rich held a meeting with Racquel Gates and Michael Boyce Gillespie in Chicago to hatch a plan for bringing together some of the best new voices for a special dossier on African American cinema, including and beyond Moonlight and I Am Not Your Negro.

Tonight, we take stock and extend the dialogue to consider the range of strategies and imaginaries that are analyzed in the dossier— and to welcome the audience into a public conversation, moderated by B. Ruby Rich, Editor, Film Quarterly. The dossier is intended as an intervention into the understanding of the present moment in black representation, across platforms, and, a way to generate ideas, conversations, and— who knows— film and TV projects for the future.

Founded in 1969, the Film Society of Lincoln Center is devoted to supporting the art and elevating the craft of cinema, and endeavors to ensure that it will remain an accessible and essential art form for years to come. Learn more at filmlinc.org. Film Quarterly, the oldest continuously published film journal in the United States, is dedicated to supporting diversity in scholarship with perspectives on film, television, and evolving media platforms. It is published by the University of California Press with major support from JustFilms, Creativity and Free Expression Program, Ford Foundation. Special thanks to Maria Luisa Gambale and Regina Longo, Film Quarterly Associate Editor, for event conception and execution; Jean-Philippe Voiron for program design; Jeff Delauter, Eugene Hernandez, Dennis Lim, and Lesli Klainberg.
Dossier Editors

Racquel Gates is Assistant Professor in the Department of Media Culture at College of Staten Island CUNY. Her research focuses on blackness and popular culture, with special attention to discourses of taste and quality. She has published in *Film Quarterly, Television & New Media,* and the anthologies *Watching While Black: Centering the Television of Black Audiences* (Rutgers University Press, 2012) and *Saturday Night Live and American TV* (Indiana University Press, 2013). Her book, *Double Negative: The Black Image and Popular Culture,* is forthcoming from Duke University Press.

Michael Boyce Gillespie is Associate Professor of Film at City College of New York, CUNY. His research and writing focuses on film theory, black visual and expressive culture, popular music, and contemporary art. He has published extensively and is the author of *Film Blackness: American Cinema and the Idea of Black Film* (Duke University Press, 2016).

Dossier Contributors


Paula J. Massood is Professor of Film Studies at Brooklyn College, CUNY, and on the doctoral faculty in the Program in Theatre at the Graduate Center, CUNY. She is the author of *Black City Cinema: African American Urban Experiences in Film* (Temple University Press, 2003) and *Making a Promised Land: Harlem in 20th-Century Photography and Film* (Rutgers University Press, 2013), and editor of *The Spike Lee Reader* (Temple University Press, 2008). She is currently President-Elect of the Society for Cinema and Media Studies.

Brandy Monk-Payton is Assistant Professor of Communication and Media Studies at Fordham University. Her published research engages with questions concerning race as they relate to topics in television, film, digital media, and celebrity. She is currently working on her first book project that considers the aesthetics and politics of contemporary black media representation and cultural production through the lens of publicity, exposure, and racial notoriety.

Samantha N. Sheppard is Assistant Professor in the Department of Performing and Media Arts at Cornell University. Co-editor of *From Madea to Media Mogul: Theorizing Tyler Perry* (University Press of Mississippi, 2016), her published and forthcoming essays appear in *Cinema Journal,* *Journal of Sports History,* *Journal of Sport and Social Issues,* *L.A. Rebellion: Creating a New Black Cinema,* and *Black Camera.* She is working on a manuscript entitled “Sporting Blackness: Race, Embodiment, and Critical Muscle Memory on Screen.”

Kristen J. Warner is Associate Professor in the Department of Journalism and Creative Media at the University of Alabama and the author of *The Cultural Politics of Colorblind TV Casting* (Routledge, 2015). Her research interests are centered at the juxtaposition of racial representation and its place within the media industries, particularly within the practice of casting. Warner’s work can be found in academic journals, a host of edited collections, and in the popular press.
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