

**Ab/Uses of the Erotic**  
**Fall 2021, Offline Course (Meets at CILAS)**  
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How has the erotic been deployed as a colonial and racializing technology? How might the erotic scramble, however fleetingly or flimsily, the coherence of racialized and colonial relations? Lingering with this dialectic of ab/use, we consider how the erotic has been aesthetically and theoretically taken up, not despite but precisely because of the violence that haunts it.

### **Tentative Course Flow**

#### **Week 1: Introductions / Listening to Lorde**

Audre Lorde, "Uses of the Erotic: The Erotic as Power," *Sister Outsider: Essays and Speeches*. We will listen together to a recording of Lorde reading the essay, which inspired this course and its title.

#### **Week 2: Thinking with Lorde**

Keguro Macharia, *Frottage: Frictions of Intimacy across the Black Diaspora*  
(Amia Srinivasan, "Does anyone have the right to sex?")

#### **Week 3: Erotohistoriography**

Elizabeth Freeman, *Time Binds: Queer Temporalities, Queer Histories*  
Gayatri Gopinath, *Unruly Visions: The Aesthetic Practices of Queer Diaspora*

#### **Week 4: Porno/tropes**

Alexander Weheliye, *Habeas Viscus: Racializing Assemblages, Biopolitics, and Black Feminist Theories of the Human*  
Jennifer Nash, *The Black Body in Ecstasy: Reading Race, Reading Pornography*

#### **Week 5: Positions**

Darieck Scott, *Extravagant Abjection: Blackness, Power, and Sexuality in the African American Literary Imagination*  
Tan Hoang Nguyen, *View from the Bottom: Asian American Masculinity and Sexual Representation*

#### **Week 6: Desubjectification, Resubjectification**

Amber Musser, *Sensational Flesh: Race, Power, and Masochism*  
Kadji Amin, *Disturbing Attachments: Genet, Modern Pederasty, and Queer History*  
Shuruq Harb, *The White Elephant* (film)

#### **Week 7: (Settler) Colonial Erotics**

Gil Hochberg, *Visual Occupations: Violence and Visibility in a Conflict Zone*  
Jodi Byrd, "Loving Unbecoming: The Queer Politics of the Transitive Native"  
Michael Mayer, *Out in the Dark* (film)

#### **Week 8: Indigenous and Anticolonial Erotics**

Mark Rifkin, *The Erotics of Sovereignty: Queer Native Writing in the Era of Self-Determination*  
Juana María Rodríguez, *Sexual Futures, Queer Gestures and Other Latina Longings*  
Rakan Mayasi, *Bonboné* (film)