

COLLOQUIUM

Chasing Blackness: Citizenship, Racial Economy, and the Reproduction of Blackness in Mexico

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My current manuscript, Chasing Blackness: Racial Economies and the Production of



Citizenship in Mexico, explores how Mexico's current multicultural political arena and persistent racial economy continues to dictate the forms by which blackness can take shape in the present moment. Chasing Blackness argues that race and culture have a historic value that continue to define their worth within the present neo-liberal

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multicultural state and therefore can be exploited in predictable ways towards a limited strategy of social and political incorporation. In this way, the logic of difference, based on an inheritance and colonial logic of race and ethnicity, dictates particular potentials and perspectives on the use and value of race and ethnicity as a cultural, social, and political

commodity. This inheritance continues to act as the foundation of state sanctioned strategies for the official recognition of difference within the Mexican nation state.

Anthony Russell Jerry is an assistant professor in the department of Anthropology at UC Riverside. His current ethnographic work focuses on issues of blackness, ethnicity, and indigeneity and the modern intersections between blackness and citizenship in Mexico and the US/Mexico border region, as well as the broader US Southwest. He is currently one of the faculty conveners for the Blackness Unbound: Critical Black Diaspora Studies working group, one of several UCOP sponsored "Faculty Commons" working groups at UC Riverside.

