"An Unthinkable History: Afro-Cuban Revolutionary Politics in New York, 1886-1957"

Employing Michel Rolph Trouillot’s notion of an “unthinkable history,” this talk both examines the early history of Afro-Cuban political and revolutionary activity, and explores why such histories are rarely part of a larger historical narrative and public discourse. Situating this pivotal era within larger theoretical discussions of potential, future, visibility and belonging, this talk argues that such revolutionary activity, especially those that revolved around ending slavery, total independence, abolition, and labor, complicated meanings of territoriality, gender, race, and power. Moreover, it argues that Afro-Cubans have a long history of political activism, cultural productions, and diasporic reinventions.

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