

The Centre for Feminist Research  
& the School of Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies present:

# Unbearable Blackness

A lecture by Visiting Scholar  
Jared Sexton

Wednesday, December 5, 2012

2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

519 York Research Tower

A reception will follow at 4:00 p.m.



The heading of this talk addresses itself broadly to the psychic life of black freedom struggle in the political culture and cultural politics of the post-emancipation United States. The myriad figures of racial blackness at work across the spectrum of practical-theoretical activity - from claims to emergent mixed race identities to calls for progressive multiracial coalition to "pro-life" pronouncements of the Christian Right - raise questions about the material-symbolic persistence of modern slavery in and as the discourse of terror in the contemporary milieu. This persistence is obscure in a profound sense and its obscurity is inflected by but not accounted for in the recent ascendance of neoliberalism and its attendant pieties of racial justice under capital. It involves, rather, a more fundamental misrecognition of the political ontology enabling modern slavery, requiring of us at once a more thorough analysis of structural conditions and a deeper historical sense commensurate with the *longue durée*.

**\*\* Professor Sexton will also be hosting a seminar for Graduate Students on Monday, December 10, from 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. Space is limited so please RSVP to [cfr@yorku.ca](mailto:cfr@yorku.ca)\*\***

**Professor Jared Sexton** is visiting York this fall as a Fulbright Distinguished Lecturing Chair. He comes to us from the University of California, Irvine, where he is Associate Professor and Director of the Program in African American Studies and teaches in the Department of Film and Media Studies and the Ph.D. programs in Visual Studies and Culture and Theory. He also holds affiliations at UCI with the Critical Theory Institute and the Center for Law, Culture and Society. Professor Sexton's research examines the political culture and cultural politics of the post-civil rights era United States, focusing on matters of race and sexuality, policing and prisons, multiracial coalition, and contemporary film. While in residence at York, Professor Sexton is teaching an undergraduate course on black feminist thought for the School of Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies and continues work on the manuscript for his next book, *The Shadow of a Color Line: Racial Politics beyond Coalition*.

Questions? [cfr@yorku.ca](mailto:cfr@yorku.ca)