



FEMINIST RESEARCH INSTITUTE



Black Lives Matter, Black Feminist Politics, and Some Uncomfortable Truths in Abolition Struggles ***A Graduate Student Workshop***

Friday, October 2 | 1:00 - 2:30 PM

Email femresin@unm.edu for Zoom registration

From Anti-Slavery and Anti-Lynching, to Black Lives Matter, Black women's participation in coalition and cross-sectional organizing in abolition struggles have offered some of the most compelling and effective models for political transformation in the US. However, the social positionality of women of African descent in patriarchy, racial hierarchy, and economic and class inequalities within coalitions, have exemplified unique precarities. While coalition work for Black women has demonstrated their political potential and effectiveness in social justice and transformation struggles, it has also laid bare often unaddressed internal and intra-group conflicts related to Black women's unique vulnerabilities within such alliances; Locations where political blind-spots and political growth present ongoing challenges. This talk examines the pitfalls, perils and 'tense and tender ties' confronting Black Feminist praxis in coalitions of abolition politics.

Facilitated by Dr. Andrea Mays, Lecturer in American Studies and WGS Studies

Andrea L. Mays holds a PhD in American Studies, focusing on the areas of 20th Century African American Culture and Politics, Visual Culture and Gender Studies. She has a M.A. in Comparative Literature and Cultural Studies from the University of New Mexico and a B.A. in Communications from George Mason University. Mays teaches courses in Race, Class, and Feminism, and Film and Literature Studies in the Department of American Studies and the Women's Studies Program at UNM. Mays is currently a UNM Provost General Education Teaching Fellow in Race and Social Justice, and a Board Member of the UNM Feminist Research Institute. She is an alumnus of The Aspen Institute's Roundtable on Racial Equity and a member of the CriticalRace Studies in Education Association.