



The *James Weldon
Johnson Institute*
for the *Study of Race
and Difference*

EMORY UNIVERSITY

SPRING 2021

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Director's Letter



Dear Friends of JWJI:

We have just left a tumultuous year, and 2021 is setting up to be equally momentous. While there are many reasons to be concerned by what we are witnessing and experiencing, we take comfort in the fact our scholarship helps us to make sense of our surroundings and provides a template for solutions to these seemingly intractable problems.

The work of JWJI continues in 2021! Because of the pandemic, we still have to meet virtually. However, we have a full calendar of talks planned for the coming semester. We hope that you will join us for these talks. Pay special attention

to the talks at the end of the semester from our visiting fellows, who are hard at work on their research projects. In addition to our faculty and dissertation fellows, we are pleased to welcome our second class of undergraduate fellows (Please see the bios below). This is a group of outstanding undergraduate honors students whose work aligns with JWJI's mission of interrogating race and difference.

As always, we are grateful to you for your continued support of JWJI. We look forward to seeing you at one of our events soon!

Sincerely,
Andra Gillespie
Director

We hope that you would consider making a donation to JWJI today. If you are interested, please use the link [here](#).

Introducing the JWJI Undergraduate Fellows Program

The James Weldon Johnson Institute is pleased to launch a new fellowship program for undergraduate students completing honors theses on topics related to race and difference in spring 2021. We received more than three times the number of applicants than we had spaces. After careful deliberation, our selection committee (Andra Gillespie, Hank Klibanoff, Karen Stolley, and Carl Suddler) selected the following four students for the Spring 2020 JWJI Undergraduate Fellowship cohort:



From left to right: Dominic Lal, Kassie Sarkar, Latreese Lovence, and Jason Goodman

Jason Goodman



(Adviser: Daniel LaChance)

Jason Goodman is a senior at Emory College studying history and economics. While he calls Atlanta is home during the school year, he is originally from Los Angeles, California. At Emory, his academic interest in post-World War II American history, combined with his passion for television, film, and popular culture, has manifested in his work in the field of cultural history. His thesis seeks to examine films and television from 1970–1994 to understand the making of racialized criminality through depictions of the spaces that produced criminality and the organized criminal and communal networks present within those spaces. His work seeks to understand how the settings depicted in these films interacted with other plot dimensions to racially code certain types of crime and disparately communicate their dangerousness to middle-class American audiences.

Dominic Lal



(Adviser: Philippe Rochat)

Dominic Lal is a Georgia native studying psychology and predictive health. He aims to become a triple-threat physician, working as a pediatrician, researcher, and community servant. Lal is currently studying how children perceive adults under Philippe Rochat in the Emory Infant and Child Lab. Although a large body of research has developed to discern how adults' implicit biases negatively impact children (education, medicine, and judicial system), little is known about how children's racial implicit biases may vary within these contexts. His research question is "What is the role of adults' occupation in the development of children's racial implicit biases?" To answer this question, he has designed a preferential sorting paradigm and parental questionnaire to virtually test children ages 6–8 via Zoom.

Latreese Lovence



(Adviser: Michelle Gordon)

Latreese Lovence is a senior in Emory College double majoring in African American studies and psychology. Her honors thesis explores the themes of ancestral connection and transgenerational trauma among the African diaspora. Her project aims to provide a unique way to connect the dots of the histories of the trans-Atlantic slave trade, traditional West African folklore and religions, and imagery from Afro-speculative novels to show the ways in which these themes can affect the lives today of those descended from slavery. Lovence is heavily involved in Residence Life as the current senior resident adviser of Woodruff Residential Center and in the Office of LGBT Life as a co-facilitator of the BlackOUT Queer Discussion Group. In the future, she aspires to help address equity in the workplace by entering the field of human resources and to pursue local nonprofit work aimed at housing insecurity in Atlanta.

Kassie Sarkar



(Adviser: Michelle Gordon)

Kassie Sarkar is a senior majoring in interdisciplinary studies and minoring in African American studies. Her honors thesis investigates racial identity, resistance, and community belonging in biracial South Asian Americans—those with one South Asian parent and one parent of another race. Her work seeks to understand these issues in a historical and contemporary context through a range of storytelling practices including the oral, artistic, and poetic. With critical race theory and anti-racist decolonizing methodologies at its core, Sarkar's thesis centers the stories, voices, and experiences of this marginalized community in order to advance equity, justice, and representation through her scholarship.

2021 Spring Colloquium Series Kicks off on January 25!

The Race and Difference Colloquium Series, a weekly event on the Emory University campus, features local and national speakers presenting academic research on contemporary questions of race and intersecting dimensions of difference. The James Weldon Johnson Institute is pleased to have the Robert W. Woodruff Library and the Stuart A. Rose Manuscript and Rare Book Library as major co-sponsors of the Colloquium Series.

We are pleased to continue our 2021 spring series via Zoom. Join us for virtual lunch and reserve a seat for your favorite talks by clicking [here](#).



The James Weldon Johnson Institute for the Study of Race and Difference






RACE & DIFFERENCE COLLOQUIUM SERIES

SPRING 2021

Mondays at 12pm VIA ZOOM

More Info & Register at: www.jwji.emory.edu

<p>1/25 LEISY ABREGO UCLA <i>We Are Not Dreamers: Migrants as Experts Rather Than Objects of Study</i></p> <p>2/1 PAULETTE RICHARDS Independent Researcher <i>Creating Communities: African American Doll Bloggers Animate Black Dolls as Sites of Signification</i></p> <p>2/8 W. CARSON BYRD University of Michigan <i>Diversity and Inclusion Counts: How Universities Reshape Racial Inequality Behind Diversity Numbers</i></p> <p>2/15 PATRICK MCKAY Temple University <i>Race-Ethnicity and the Applicant-Employer Interface</i></p> <p>2/22 ERIKA LEE University of Minnesota <i>Xenophobia in America: How We Got Here and What's at Stake</i></p> <p>3/1 KAREN COX UNC Charlotte <i>Confederate Monuments and the Ongoing Fight for Racial Equality</i></p> <p>3/8 ANGELICA BERNAL UMASS - Amherst <i>Founding Sins, Presidential Violence</i></p>	<p>3/15 ELIZABETH MCRAE Western Carolina University <i>Racial Segregation's Constant Gardeners: White Women and the Politics of White Supremacy</i></p> <p>3/22 CRAIG WATKINS The University of Texas at Austin <i>Creative Futures: Re-signifying Black Lives in a Post-Pandemic World</i></p> <p>3/29 LAGINA GAUSE University of California, San Diego <i>The Advantage of Disadvantage: Legislative Behavior Following Costly Protest</i></p> <p>4/5 JENNIFER NASH Duke University <i>In the Room: Women of Color Birthwork in a State of Emergency</i></p> <p>4/12 FRANCINE REED JWJI Fellow <i>But When I Became a Man: Charles Chesnut, James Baldwin, and the Truth for a Mature American Citizenry</i></p> <p>4/19 BARBARA COMBS JWJI Fellow <i>Theorizing the Continuing Attack against Black Bodies</i></p> <p>4/26 ROCHELLE ROWE-WISEMAN University College London <i>Beauty, Ugliness, and Ideas of Racial Difference</i></p>
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