

## Spring 2023 Student Seminar: Haunted Dreams of Liberation

Leader: Emma Schwartz, HC' 24, Comparative Literature and Anthropology Double Major, Spanish Minor - [emschwartz@haverford.edu](mailto:emschwartz@haverford.edu)

Faculty Advisor: Lindsay Reckson, HC English Department

"What kind of case is a case of a ghost? It is a case of haunting, a story about what happens when we admit the ghost—that special instance of the merging of the visible and the invisible, the dead and the living, the past and the present—into the making of worldly relations and into the making of our accounts of the world. It is a case of the difference it makes to start with the marginal, with what we normally exclude or banish, or, more commonly, with what we never even notice....It is a case of modernity's violence and wounds, and a case of the haunting reminder of the complex social relations in which we live. It is...what can represent systematic injury and the remarkable lives made in the wake of the making of our social world"

Gordon, Avery. *Ghostly Matters: Haunting and the Sociological Imagination*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1997. Print.

This seminar will use Hauntology, the study of how lost futures haunt the present (Ashford), as the framework to study settler colonialism, Black feminist body politics, necropolitics, borderlands, temporality, labor rights, revolution, abolition, and more. We will ask questions such as: how does grappling with haunting enable us to better understand relationships between the past, present, and future and to read unresolved and ongoing acts of violence (Reckson)? How does haunting show up in the lives of colonized peoples? How does it show up in the lives of colonizers? What are the relationships between these hauntings? If necropolitics is the solidification of state power through death, is haunting an unsettling of necropolitics (Reckson)? How does haunting inform our dreams and visions of liberation?

Based on the class materials I have selected, this seminar will likely be of particular (but not exclusive) interest to students majoring, minoring, or concentrating in Africana Studies, Gender and Sexuality Studies, Anthropology, Sociology, English, Psychology, Health Studies, Environmental Studies, History, Comparative Literature, Philosophy, Peace, Justice, and Human Rights, Fine Arts, and Visual Studies.

As part of this seminar, we would like to invite multidisciplinary artist and doctoral candidate in African and Africana Studies at UT Austin, Zalika U Ibaorimi, to talk about her dissertation titled "Haunted Femmes, Haunting Spectators: Modalities of Black

Desire, Pleasure & Sexual Shame." According to Black Women Radicals, Ibaorimi "engages Black material and digital publics as the landscape to trace the human sexual geographies between the relation of the Black femme and spectator" and "specializes in haunting, Black queerness, horror, flesh, the human & deviant Blackness." Ibaorimi's perspectives on the relations between haunting and Black femme being will be invaluable to this seminar. Inviting her to speak will also be incredibly valuable to the whole campus. From the student perspective and as someone who has been following her work since I watched her talk "(Ho)lyOntology: Black Visual Cultural Geographies of the Sexually Illicit" with Black Woman Radicals, I can say that Ibaorimi is someone who makes academic inquiry feel truly exciting.

Note: Haunting is intimately related to violence, and those considering participating in this seminar should know that a number of the texts we will be reading deal with this in graphic ways. To give a sense of the types of topics that will come up in the readings that may be triggering for students, one of the books we will likely be reading, *Tell Me I'm Worthless* by Alison Rumfitt, begins with the following content warning: "Tell Me I'm Worthless is a book about two things, primarily, and those things are trauma and fascism. I thought it important to include a content warning here, at the start, to say that. In dealing with those topics, the novel covers racism, antisemitism, transphobia, rape (both in abstract and graphic ways), self-harm, and suicide."

**Primary Sources (novels, poems, photography, etc...):**

*Beloved* by Toni Morrison

*Tell Me I'm Worthless* by Alison Rumfitt

*The Poetics of Haunting in Asian American Poetry*: <http://poeticsofhaunting.com/>

"Jawn Theory" by Zalika U Ibaorimi: <https://culanth.org/fieldsights/jawn-theory>

*Ghosting* (2004) by Roshini Kempadoo: <https://roshinikempadoo.com/ghosting>

**Additional recommended primary sources that we likely will not get to during this seminar:**

*Estilo/Style* by Dolores Dorantes

*Ceremony* by Leslie Marmon

*Silko Como en la Guerra/He Who Searches* by Luisa Valenzuela

*Ghosts* by Edith Wharton

*Sing, Unburied, Sing* by Jesmyn Ward

**Theoretical Sources:**

*Ghostly Matters: Haunting and the Sociological Imagination* by Avery Gordon

"Black Feminist Hauntology. Rememory the Ghosts of Abolition?" by Viviane Saleh  
*Postcolonial Hauntologies: African Women's Discourses of the Female Body* by Ayo A. Coly

"A Glossary of Haunting" by Eve Tuck and C. Ree

"Before Dispossession or Surviving it" by Angie Morrill, Eve Tuck and the Super Futures Haunt Collective

*Demonic Grounds: Black Women and the Cartographies of Struggle* by Katherine Mckittrick

"Fleshing out the Ghost" in *Haunting the Korean Diaspora: Shame, Secrecy, and the Forgotten War* by Grace M. Cho

"(Ho)lyOntology: Black Visual Cultural Geographies of the Sexually Illicit" by Zalika U Ibaorimi: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n8aj-hhC2WI>

"The (Ho)rror of it all: Ganja & Hess, Summer Walker, and the Soundtrack of Ho Ontologies" by Zalika U Ibaorimi

"A Mutual Haunting: Zalika U Ibaorimi's Ancestral Collaboration"  
<https://www.agatheringtogether.com/a-mutual-haunting-zalika-u-ibaorimis-ancestral-collaboration/>

"What Can Bloom? An Abolitionist Study of Policing at Haverford College" by Frances Condon: <https://scholarship.tricolib.brynmawr.edu/handle/10066/23460>

"Killing Abstractions: Indigenous Women and Black Trans Girls Challenging Media Necropower in White Settler States" by Lena Carla Palacios.  
*Specters of Marx* by Jacques Derrida  
*Necropolitics* by Achille Mbembe

"Unsettling the Coloniality of Being/Power/Truth/Freedom: Towards the Human, After Man, Its Overrepresentation--An Argument" by Sylvia Wynter

"Near Life, Queer Death: Overkill and Ontological Capture" by Eric Stanely

"The Archive and the Repertoire in Roshini Kempadoo's Ghosting" by Marta Fernández Campa  
*The Archive and the Repertoire: Performing Cultural Memories in the Americas* by Diana Taylor  
*Camera Lucida* by Roland Barthes

"Ghost Dancing at Century's End" from *Beyond Settler Time: Temporal Sovereignty and Indigenous Self-Determination* by Mark Rifkin

"The Memory of the Flesh: The Family Body in Somatic Psychology" by Katharine Young  
*Borderlands/La Frontera* by Gloria Anzaldúa  
*Freedom Dreams: the Black radical imagination* by Robin DG Kelly  
*Playing in the Dark: Whiteness and the Literary Imagination* by Toni Morrison

"Spectral Times: The Ghost Film as Historical Allegory" by Bliss Cua Lim

"Beyond, Between: Translation, Ghosts, Metaphors" by Michael Emmerich from the book *In Translation: Translators on Their Work and What It Means*

"Haunting, ruination and encounter in the ordinary Anthropocene: storying the return of Florida's wild flamingos" by Aurora Fredriksen

"Haunting, Blackness, and Algorithmic Thought" by Ezekiel Dixon-Román and Ramon Amaro: <https://www.e-flux.com/journal/123/437244/haunting-blackness-and-algorithmic-thought/>

*Raising the Dead: Readings of Death and (Black) Subjectivity* by Sharon Patricia Holland

"The Quick, the Dead, and the Yet Unborn: Untimely Sexualities and Secular Hauntings" by Molly McGarry in *Secularisms Ghosts of Futures Past: Spiritualism and the Cultural Politics of Nineteenth-Century America* by Molly McGarry

"Villains, Ghosts, and Roses, or How to Speak with the Dead" by Sandra Huber

*IM Heung-soon: Toward a Poetics of Opacity and Hauntology* by National Museum of Modern Art Korea

"Spectral geographies: haunting and everyday state practices in colonial and present-day Alaska" by Kate S. Coddington

*Afro-Paradise: Blackness, Violence, and Performance in Brazil* by Cristen A. Smith

*The Haunted Stage: Theatre as a Memory Machine* by Marvin Carlson

*Cities of the Dead* by Joseph Roach

"On the Haunting of Performance Studies" by Benjamin D. Powell & Tracy Stephenson

*Shaffer Performing Remains: Art and War in Times of Theatrical Reenactment* by Rebecca Schneider

*Haunted Life: Visual Culture and Black Modernity* by David Marriott

**Note about selecting readings:** Since this is far more readings than we could get to over the course of the seminar, once I have the list of participants for the seminar, I plan to send out a survey to see what topics within the subject of hauntology students are most interested in and if there are any readings from the list of options that they know they are enthusiastic about in order to help narrow down the reading list. In that survey, I will also try to see if students have any preliminary questions, comments, concerns, needs, ideas, etc... to prepare for the seminar in general.

**Projected schedule of meetings and discussion format:** We will plan to meet 6 times during the Spring 2023 semester, approximately every other week. I plan to adapt the discussion format based on what works best for the group, but some ideas that I have are using a structure that Professor Nadja Eisenberg-Guyot uses in their classroom where they pose around 3 questions and everyone can choose one to respond to and then the class goes around in a circle sharing their responses, then the class goes around a second time, each person responding to a point that their peers made. I also plan to ask participants to come to meetings with at least one clarifying or discussion question so we can center the conversations around what each person wants to talk about.

