

RHETORIC COLLIQUIIUM

FEB -
APRIL

Let's Talk About Palestine: A UC Berkeley Teach-In Series

Co-Sponsors: Middle Eastern Languages & Cultures, Ethnic Studies, Critical Theory, ICCTP, Center for Middle Eastern Studies

Despite Obfuscation and Orientalism: Palestine in Modern History

Dr. Ussama Makdisi
February 6, 2024

Islamophobia, Race, and the Racialization of Palestine

Dr. Hatem Bazian and Dr. Keith Feldman
February 20, 2024

On Apartheid, Occupation, and the Law

Dr. Samera Esmir and Dr. Wadle Said
March 14, 2024

Palestinian Literature and the Writing of Trauma

Dr. Ahmad Diab and Dr. Stefania Pandolfo
April 16, 2024

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“Exhausting Democracy: Wilderson in South Africa”

This talk reconstructs the significance of Frank B. Wilderson III’s surprisingly rarely-considered experience of having been a militant in the South African anti-apartheid struggle for the development, reception and contemporary disavowal of Afropessimist thought. Wilderson was a member of *uMkhonto we Sizwe*, the paramilitary wing of a coalition between the African National Congress and the South African Communist Party before refusing, for a time, to demobilize when ordered to by Nelson Mandela’s administration. How might we square the dominant reading of Wilderson, as a figure marked by his systematic refusal of hope, with its uncanny double, a figure who refused to give up, who is marked by an attachment so excessive that he sustains it beyond the terrain where it might have been lived as a collective, historical commitment? What might we learn about, or become unsettled by, in the texture of political endurance if we retain Wilderson’s connection to this unmourned ideal, across the dissolution of its proper collective subject, as he lives and writes it as ontological exhaustion? As theoretical production?

2024

“Greek Tragedy in a Global Crisis: Reading Through Pandemic Times” by Mario Telo

Selected as one of the two finalists in the Classics section of the 2024 Professional and Scholarly Excellence (PROSE) Awards given by the Association of American Publishers.