“(The ideas) of Racecraft govern what goes with what and whom (sumptuary codes), how different people must deal with each other (rituals of deference and dominance), where human kinship begins and ends (blood), and how Americans look at themselves and each other (the gaze). These ideas do not exist purely in the mind, or only in the mind. They are social facts - like six o’clock, both an idea and a reality. Because Racecraft exists this way, its constant remaking constantly retreats from view. This, “now you see it, now you don’t” quality is what makes racism - the practice of a double standard based on ancestry - possible.”

Karen E. Fields and Barbara J Fields, “A Tour of Racecraft,” in Racecraft

“Evidence of the changing and inconsistent composition of racialized groups, and definitions of racial difference in the course of modern history, suggests that "race" must be recognized as at least as unstable, at least as contingent, as subject to the same historical contexts that have continually reproduced and reconstituted class, gender, and other social formations. Evidence for the inextricability of racial formation from other historical processes emerges in the frequent observation that the "new racism" of the late nineteenth century accompanied rising antisemitism, including pogroms, and the Dreyfus Affair, and enhanced class stratification in Europe. Yet how do we comprehend the relationship between race and other historical processes? ”

Laura Tabili, “Race is a Relationship and Not a Thing.”

In its 8th annual workshop, SORAAAD asks, How do we design research and collect data on race, the processes of racialization, and religion? How do we trace their intersections with disability, gender, orientation, and class while also challenging the idea that race or phenotypic preoccupation is a universal mode of human aggregation? How do we rejoin attention to these issues along with different scales of social and political aggregation and power? To address these issues and more, we are pleased to announce that Rudy Busto, Kelly J. Baker, Karen E. Fields, Chloe Martinez, Jolyon B. Thomas, Jens Kreinath, Angela C. Sutton, Monique Moultrie, and Sarah Dees will share their work and insights with regard to Race and: history, white supremacy, legal classifications, Racecraft, Japanese culture, visual culture, the Slave Societies Database, womanist ethnography, and Indigenous religion.
SORAAAD asserts that all discussions of race, racialization, and religion necessarily factor into larger social scientific discussions regarding principles of representation and responsible uses of evidence. At the same time we recognize that research on race and religion needs to integrate other facets of human existence and modes of aggregation, such as politics, economics, culture, and organizations, and these at varied scales. Multiple disciplines are working now to decolonize themselves, and yet such efforts exist often alongside—and sometimes overlap with—others to defend empire. How do we construct studies of race that are not trapped in narratives of white supremacy or the impacts of colonialism retrojected over time? And how do we construct studies of race and religion that capture these categories as discursive sites and constructive processes?

SORAAAD is happy to host an alliance of scholars to discuss the state of different initiatives to correct public and scholarly understandings of race. Drawing on research from across the humanities and social sciences, and noting also new advances in the digital humanities that provide unprecedented access to primary sources, we ask together: How do we revisit the data of human history?

- Ipsita Chatterjea, David Walker, and Jamel Velji for the SORAAAD workshop committee.

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SORAAAD at the University of Regina
Religious Studies Department, University of Regina
Film, Media & Journalism Studies Department, University of Denver
Religious Studies Department, University of Denver
Race and the Analytical Study of Religion

SCHEDULE

8:45-9:15 Workshop Check-in; Refreshments and Informal Introductions.
9:15 Introduction and Opening Statement
9:25 Introductions across the room - Ipsita Chatterjea & David Walker, Moderators.

Race and the Analytical Study of Religion - Sean McCloud, Session Chair
9:45 Rudy Busto “Race, Religion and the Chains of Human History”
10:25 Kelly Baker “Foregrounding White Supremacists in Religious Studies”

11:00 -11:15 Break

Race, Religion, Categories, and Classification - David Walker, Session Chair
11:15 Karen Fields “Race as America’s Totemic Constructs”
11:50 Chloe Martinez “Making Race, Making Space: Bhagat Singh Thind Beyond the Supreme Court Case”

12:25- 1:30 Lunch

Race, Religion, Reframing the Data of Racialization - Tim Jensen, Session Chair.
1:30 Jolyon Thomas “‘Japanese People Don’t See Race’: Linguistic Tics, Ambient Norms, and the Constructed Qualities of Race and Religion in Japan”
2:10 Jens Kreinath “Visual Culture and the Formation of the Anthropological Category of Race: Implications and Consequences for the Study of Religion and Culture, with a Particular Focus on Islam and the Middle East”
2:50 Angela Sutton (via Skype) “Religious Documents in the Slave Societies Digital Archive (SSDA)”

3:25- 3:40 Break

Race and Methodology - Ipsita Chatterjea, Session Chair
3:40 Sarah Dees “Presence, Absence, Refusal: Race and Indigenous Religions in the Academy ”
4:20 Monique Moultrie “Womanist Ethnography: Race, Sexuality and Media”

4:55 Conversation across sessions

5:20 Announcements and clean up.

SORAAAD reception - 5:40- 7:00, Location TBD
REGISTRATION

Please send an email to william.arnal@uregina.ca. Place “SORAAAD 2018 Registration” in the subject line, and include your name, indication of rank (independent scholar, graduate student, professor, etc.), and institution, if applicable, in the body of the email. Please also indicate if you are a Vegan, Vegetarian, avoiding Gluten or Soy, or are a Non-Vegetarian avoiding a specific type of meat. If you are parent who needs to attend with a child, please let us know what you need to accommodate your participation; at this time we have no formal child care arrangements. Please note that the workshop site has a number of single occupancy gender neutral bathrooms. Details regarding public transportation (Denver Light Rail) options will be provided. For those new to the workshop, you may wish to review the SORAAAD Workshop Ethos.

Registration is free. SORAAAD thanks its sponsors for making this possible.

Participation Limit: 40.

Registration—and confirmation of registration—are required of all attending.

Social Media
#SORAAAD2018 is the official hashtag for “Race and the Analytical Study of Religion.” Please respect the limits expressed by speakers and other participants with regard to circulating their thoughts, ideas, or images on media of any kind.

For news about the workshop, analytical scholarship in religion and cognate fields, the latest from our partners and your peers, and issues facing higher education, please follow: @SORAAADWorkshop on Twitter.