

POLS 740: Seminar in Comparative Politics: Sankaran Krishna
Genealogies of Race, Violence, and Capital in Global Modernity

Course Description: In this course, we will look at a series of readings that exemplify Edward Said's notion of contrapuntality, i.e., the need to understand the inter-related and global nature of capitalism, racism, violence, and identity as they have evolved in the last two centuries of liberalism, empire and resistance. These works complicate territorially circumscribed understandings of culture, national belonging, economic processes, racial identity and ethnic, gendered and sexualized violence, and the politics of resistance to all of these. They are written by authors with capaciously inter- and multi-disciplinary orientations and whose interests and scholarship trace pathways across continents. They are all acute in understanding the ways in which borders and ideas of bounded territorialities, or embodied and encapsulated identities, can draw our eyes away from interconnections and disable a politics of a genuinely international and resistant knowledge. I submit such globally contrapuntal approaches to Comparative Politics are perhaps more than necessary than ever in these times of imminent global fascisms. The seminar will meet on Fridays from 9:30 to noon at the Friedman room in Saunders Hall. Here are some of the books that will anchor the course (in addition to excerpts from other books and journal articles):

Lisa Lowe – The Intimacies of Four Continents (Duke, 2015).

Jasbir Puar – The Right to Maim: debility, capacity, disability (Duke, 2017).

Inderpal Grewal – Saving the Security State: exceptional citizens in 21st century America (Duke, 2017).

Nikhil Pal Singh – Race and America's Long War (California, 2017).

Lisa Parkes and Caren Kaplan (eds.) – Life in the Age of Drone Warfare (Duke, 2017).

Iyko Day – Alien Capital: Asian Racialization and the Logic of Settler Colonial Capitalism (Duke, 2016)

Steven Salaita- Inter\Nationalism: Decolonizing Native America and Palestine (Minnesota, 2016)

Pankaj Mishra – Age of Anger: a history of the present (Juggernaut, 2017).