

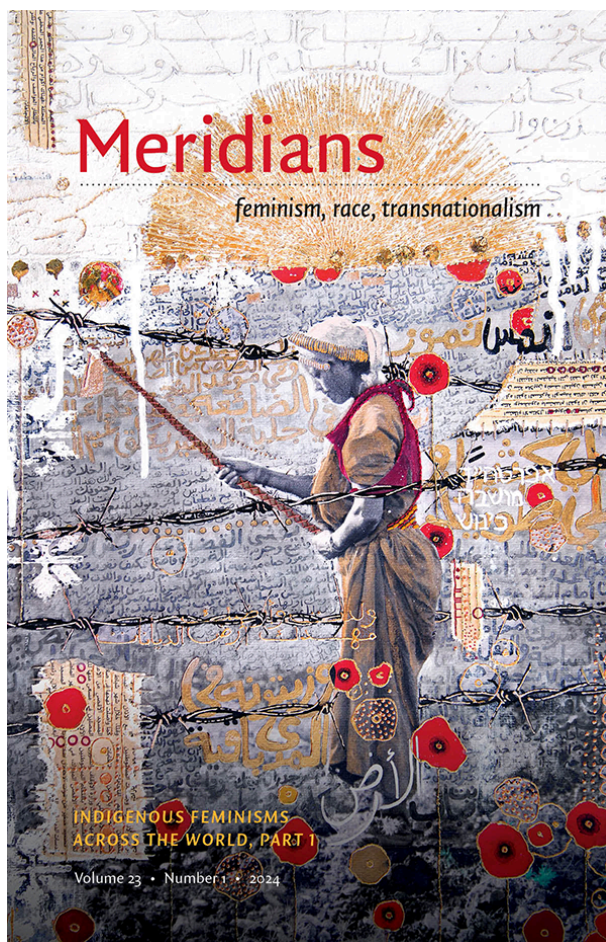
Meridians

feminism, race, transnationalism

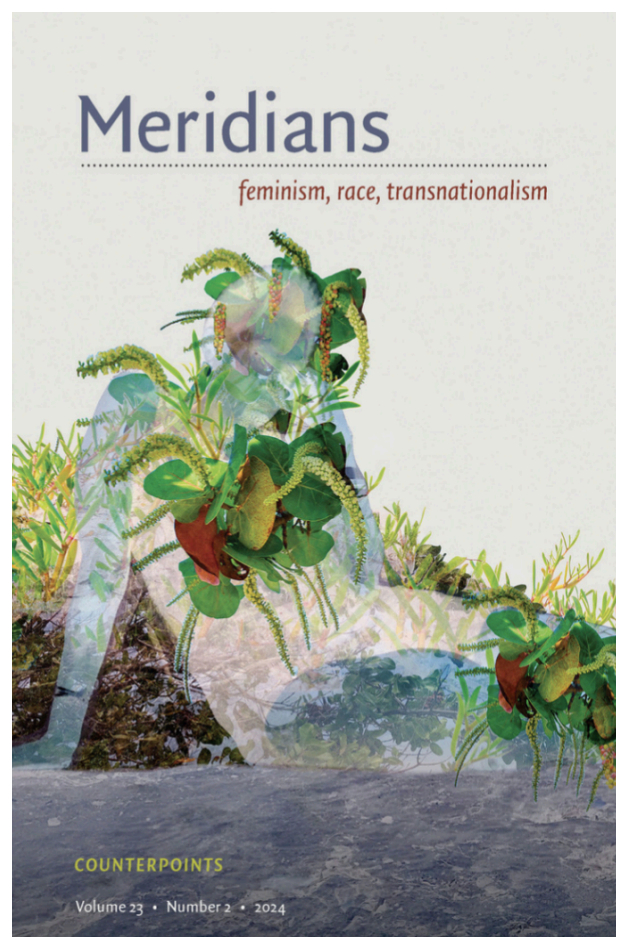
Volume 23 Celebration

Wednesday, February 12, 2025

4:00 p.m. to 5:15 p.m. EST



[23.1: Indigenous Feminisms Across the World, Part 1](#)



[23.2: Counterpoints](#)

***Meridians* Editorial Team**

Ginetta E.B. Candelario '90, Editor

Ginetta E. B. Candelario is Professor of Sociology, Latin American & Latin@ Studies, and the Study of Women and Gender at Smith College. Since 2017, she has been the Editor of *Meridians: feminism, race, transnationalism*. Candelario's research interests include Dominican history and society, with a focus on national identity formation, feminism, and women's history; Blackness in the Americas; Latin American, Caribbean and Latina feminisms; Latina/o communities (particularly Cuban, Dominican and Puerto Rican); U.S. beauty culture; and museum studies.

Ally Einbinder '10, Editorial Office Manager

Ally Einbinder graduated from Smith in 2010 with a double major in Sociology and the Study of Women and Gender. She joined the *Meridians* team as Editorial Office Manager in October 2022 and is thrilled to be engaging in work that is directly in line with her academic interests and values. She recently moved back to western Massachusetts after spending some time in Los Angeles, where she was pursuing a career in music with her band, Potty Mouth. She previously worked at Smith from 2010 to 2016 as Program Coordinator for the former Wurtele Center for Work & Life.

Dr. May Chan, Editorial Assistant

Dr. May Chan joined *Meridians* as an Editorial Assistant this past July to support the journal's mission of publishing transnational feminist works, after having worked at The College of Saint Rose's English Department until 2024. As an Associate Professor, May specialized in Victorian literature, Asian-American literature, and modern day adaptations of Jane Austen's novels. Her research interests lie with travel narratives written by Victorians visiting/working in China, with a focus on the late career-travel narratives about East Asia written by Isabella Bird, one of the most famous Victorian women travelers.

Participating Contributors

Meridians 23.1: Indigenous Feminisms Across the World, Part 1

Yael Valencia Aldana

[Open Your Mouth](#)

Yael Valencia Aldana is a Caribbean Afro-Latinx writer and poet. Yael is a descendant of the Indigenous people of Colombia. She earned her MFA in creative writing from Florida International University. Her work has appeared or is upcoming in Typehouse, Florida Book Review, South Florida Poetry Journal, Scapegoat Review, Antithesis Blog, and Slag Glass City.

Denise Schallenkammer

[The “Grandmother” of Indigenous Filmmaking in New Zealand: Merata Mita—her film is Patu](#)

Denise Schallenkammer holds a master of arts in communication and media studies as well as in British and American transcultural studies. She is a PhD student at the Institute for Media Research at the University of Rostock and a research associate at the Sorbian Institute in Bautzen (Germany). Her dissertation project deals with the comparison of filmic depictions of the ethnic minorities of the Sorbs, Sámi, and Māori. Special attention is paid to the cinematic representation(s) of Indigenous identity.

Gina Athena Ulysse

[Tools of the Trade; or, Women's Works](#)

Gina Athena Ulysse is a Haitian American feminist artist-scholar and professor of feminist studies at the University of California Santa Cruz. In the last two decades, she has been concerned with the expression and representation of the dailyness of Black diasporic conditions; her rasanblaj approach to her art and writing practice entails ongoing crossings and dialogues in the arts, humanities, and social sciences. She has been published in art catalogs as well as journals, and over the years, she has performed at a range of venues.

Yurika Tamura

[Rehumanizing Ainu: Performance of Desubjectification and a Politics of Singularity](#)

Yurika Tamura is assistant professor in the Department of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Her forthcoming book, *Vibration of Others: Resonance and Corporeal Ethics of Transnational Indigenous Soundscapes*, uses New Materialism and sound studies to understand how Ainu artists and activists curate transnational Indigenous soundscapes and address racism and environmental crises, both of which are results of multinational imperial operations.

Priti Narayan

[What It Takes to Be Counted: An Interview with Ruby Hembrom](#)

Priti Narayan is assistant professor in the Department of Geography, University of British Columbia. Her primary research and teaching interests center around urban processes and politics, particularly in India. Using ethnographic and archival methods, she investigates how residents preserve citizenship in urban landscapes marked by violent, large-scale slum evictions. Her academic work is largely informed by her long-term association with and learning from Pennurimai Iyakkam (Women's Rights Movement), a forty-year-old organization that mobilizes female residents of urban poor settlements around the rights to land and housing and access to basic services in Tamil Nadu, India.

Marilyn James

[The Contemporary Origins of Smum'iem Matriarchy in Sinixt Təm̓x̓w̓úlaʔx̓w̓: Transcribed from recordings with Marilyn James, Sinixt Smum'iem Matriarch](#)

Marilyn James is the first appointed spokesperson of the Sinixt Nation in Canada in the 1990s, and continues to be dedicated in her mission as a Sinixt Smum'iem Matriarch and knowledge keeper. She is also the co-author of "Not Extinct: Keeping the Sinixt Way" (2021).

Esther Ajayi-Lowo

[Safe Motherhood Initiative: Whither African Indigenous Birthing Knowledge?](#)

Esther Oluwashina Ajayi-Lowo is assistant professor of comparative women's studies at Spelman College in Atlanta, Georgia. She holds a PhD and MA in multicultural women's and gender studies from Texas Woman's University. Her research interests include African feminisms, transnational feminism, Indigenous birthing epistemologies, Black maternal health, and global reproductive health/rights/justice. As a scholar-activist-teacher, Ajayi-Lowo's passion lies at the intersection of gender, race, healthcare, and social justice.

Dana Barqawi

[About the Artwork "Women Digging Thorns out of Fields"](#)

Dana Barqawi is a multidisciplinary artist and urban planner based in Amman, Jordan. She holds a bachelor of science in architecture and a double master of science in international cooperation, urban development, and emergency architecture.

Participating Contributors

Meridians 23.2: “Counterpoints”

Guadalupe Escobar

[The Unforgetting of Claribel Alegría: Reckoning with Capitalist Catastrophe in El Salvador](#)

Guadalupe Escobar is assistant professor in the English Department and the Gender, Race, and Identity Department at the University of Nevada, Reno. She specializes in contemporary Latin American and Latinx cultural expression. Her current research project is on testimonio as a human rights genre.

Aisha Upton Azzam

[“Enhancing Human Dignity Here and Around the World”: The Black Sorority as International Uplift Movement](#)

Aisha A. Upton Azzam is an assistant professor of sociology at Susquehanna University. Her research agenda is centered on race, gender, and social movements. More specifically, Dr. Upton Azzam’s work has explored Black women’s organizations, Black social movements, and Black feminism. She has published in venues like *Black Feminist Sociology and Humanity and Society*.

Chia-Hsu Jessica Chang

[Denaming: Unraveling the Sex-Skin and Gender-Mask Technologies in the Colonial Naming Structure](#)

Chia-Hsu Jessica Chang is a doctoral candidate in comparative literature at Binghamton University, State University of New York. Her academic praxis stands at the intersection of decolonial feminism, third-world feminism, and the politics of women and queers of color, critical race and ethnic studies, and translation and communication studies in transpacific Asia and North America. Her current research explores the role of decolonial translators, who create communicative resistance and communal knowledge through the strategic utilization of their untranslatability.

Aurora Santiago Ortiz

[Colectiva Feminista en Construcción: Building a Transnational Feminism Pedagogy](#)

Aurora Santiago Ortiz is an assistant professor of gender and women’s studies and Chicane/Latine studies at the University of Wisconsin–Madison. Her research focuses on decolonial and anti-racist feminisms; community-based, participatory action research; and critical methodologies.

Umayyah Cable

[Coming out for Community, Coming out for a Cause: Queer Arab American Activism in the 1990s](#)

Umayyah Cable (they/them) is an assistant professor in the departments of American Culture and Film, Television, and Media, and a core faculty member in the Arab and Muslim American Studies Program at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

Shreya Parikh

[Within and Outside the Black-Maghrebi Binary: A Conversation with Maya Abdelhamid](#)

Shreya Parikh is a dual PhD in political sociology at Sciences Po Paris and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and a Bucerius PhD Fellow (2022–24) at ZeitStiftung. Her dissertation studies the constructions and contestations of race and racialization in Tunisia through a focus on the racialization of Black Tunisians and sub-Saharan migrants.

Lisa E. Wright

[According to the Record](#)

Lisa E. Wright is a lecturer in the University Writing Program at Johns Hopkins University. Her writing courses center on Black maternal health, with a particular focus on reproductive and birthing justice. Wright is working on a manuscript “The Ring of Fire: A Memoir,” which chronicles her home births with her midhusband. It further examines Black women’s birthing choices, with a particular focus on the delegitimation of Black midwives, and on creating safe birthing spaces inside and outside medical institutions. Her writing has appeared College English, The Writing Center Journal, Praxis, Axis, and Hippocampus Magazine

Caroline M. Mar

[Catalog of Writings Left by Chinese Railroad Laborers of the CPRR and “唔需 \(No Need\)”](#)

Caroline M. Mar is the great-granddaughter of a railroad laborer and the author of Water Guest (forthcoming), Special Education (Texas Review Press), and the chapbook Dream of the Lake (Bull City Press). Carrie received her MFA from Warren Wilson, is a member of Rabble Collective, and teaches high school health education in her hometown of San Francisco. She has been granted residencies at Hedgebrook, Ragdale, and Storyknife, among others, and her writing has most recently appeared in West Trade Review and Poetry Northwest.

Chamara Moore

[Beyond Black Girlhood: An Underground Railroad to Nowhere](#)

Chamara Moore (they/them) is an assistant professor in the English Department at Queens College CUNY. Their multidisciplinary research reads various constructions of Blackness, womanhood, and otherness through the Speculative in all its forms, primarily by way of a Black feminist cultural lens. Their work appears or is forthcoming in the Black Scholar, ImageText, Transition magazine, Studies in the Fantastic, and more.