

Pembroke Center Seed Grants: 2014-15

Andean Project



Traditional Aymara ceremony in Copacabana, on the border of Lake Titicaca in Bolivia.

In recent years, scholars in many disciplines have produced an outpouring of work on the histories and societies of indigenous people in the Andes (Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia and Chile). This recent interest is due in part to the extraordinary growth of indigenous ethnic mobilization and political parties in the Andean world, but goes far beyond that subject into the study of history, anthropology, sociology, literature, and performance studies, among others. But there has been all too little conversation among the disciplines.

Thanks to seed grant funding from the Pembroke Center, a group of Brown professors and students from the departments of Anthropology, History, Music, Hispanic Studies and others have formed the Andean Project. Over the 2014-15 academic year, the Project will host a series of lectures and public performances, both academic and of general interest, at Brown. The first will be a panel discussion to coincide with Brown's First Readings program on the film *Oil & Water*, a documentary about the struggles around oil extraction in eastern Ecuador that features David Poritz '11 and the organization he created to establish a fair trade certification for oil. The Andean Project also will run a workshop for sharing and critiquing work-in-progress by the participants. The Andean Project's goal is to build the visibility of Andean Studies at Brown, to foster interdisciplinary conversation and collaboration, and to prepare undergraduate and graduate students for future work or study in Latin America.

- **Laura Bass**, Associate Professor and Chair, Hispanic Studies
- **Jeremy Mumford**, Lecturer, History

Black Women at the Grassroots of Politics in Jamaica



The Hannah Town Cultural Group leading a vigil for people who have died violently, as part of the "Letters from the Dead" research and performance project, Kingston, Jamaica, 2014.

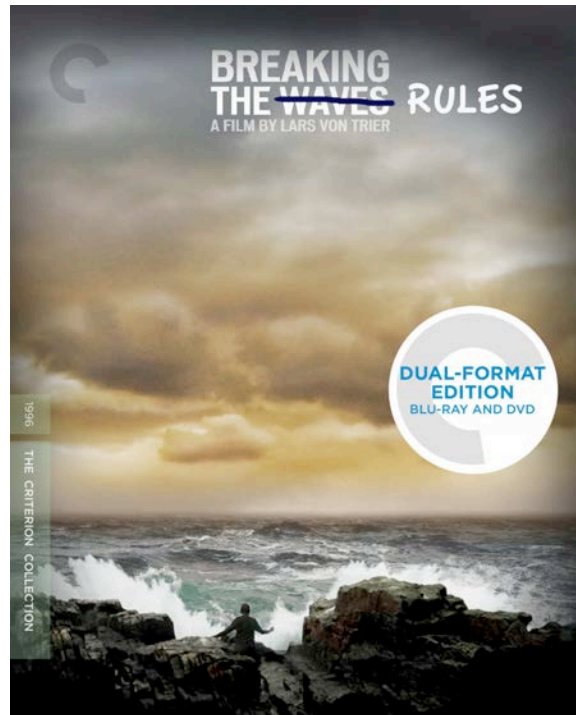
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This project draws upon the social movement scholarship in Africana Studies, Anthropology, Political Science, History, and Feminist Studies to explore Black women's grassroots activism in Jamaica. Research collaborators will pursue the following questions: 1) When and how do Black women lead and participate in grassroots political organizations?; 2) What are the primary social and political issues driving Black women to organize in their local communities?; 3) How do Black women mobilize around racial, gender, class, and sexual interests and advance feminist theories of intersectionality?; and, 4) How have the shifting trends in governance shaped contemporary grassroots social movements in Jamaica and the broader Caribbean?

The seed grant will support research projects on social movements against forced land evictions, art and theatre-based activism, and Rastafari women's philosophy and engagement in gendered anti-racism politics. The group hopes to host one-day seminars at Brown and the University of the West Indies, Mona led by Anthony Bogue and Maziki Thame to explore key ideas in Caribbean political thought and developments related to black women's grassroots activism. This collaborative research project will result in a special journal issue. The project is also partially supported with a grant from the Watson Institute for International Studies.

- **Keisha-Khan Y. Perry** (Project Director), Assistant Professor of Africana Studies
- **Anthony Bogue**, Lyn Cross Professor of Social Sciences and Critical Theory; Director, Center for the Study of Slavery and Justice
- **Maziki Thame**, Lecturer in the Department of Government, University of the West Indies, Mona
- **Nicosia Shakes**, doctoral candidate, Africana Studies
- **Shamara Alhassan**, doctoral student, Africana Studies

Breaking the Rules: Gender, Power, and Politics in the Films of Lars von Trier

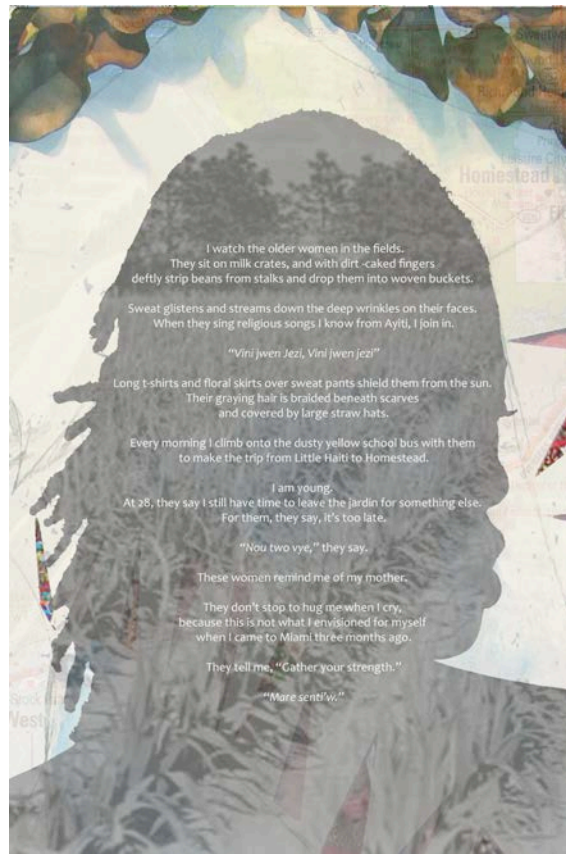


Lars von Trier's films – including *Melancholia* (2011) and *Nymphomaniac* (2014) – are unsettling, urgent, and often controversial. His films raise questions about gender and violence, the politics of the foreigner, the disabled and the immigrant, conditions of work in neoliberal economies, marriage, morality, and more. Project organizers have invited scholars to submit papers for a special issue of the online journal, *Theory & Event* – an interdisciplinary journal with a reputation for cutting edge theoretical and political inquiry.

Seed grant funds will support the screening of a number of von Trier's films and the hosting of a conference at Brown in November that will feature scholars who have been invited to submit to *Theory & Event*. The Brown community will be invited to join scholars at the conference in thinking specifically about the films of Lars von Trier and about film as a political and aesthetic technology. The conference will bring together scholars from all over the world working at the intersections of classics, women's, gender, and sexuality studies, racial politics, political science, philosophy, humanities and communications arts, and film studies. The aim is not only to generate political commentary on von Trier's films, but also to use his films as an occasion to develop new work in political, literary, film, feminist, or critical theory.

- **Bonnie Honig** (project director), Nancy Duke Lewis Professor (-elect), Modern Culture and Media and Political Science
- **Anthony Cokes**, Professor, Modern Culture and Media

Writing the Undercommons



Nadege Green and Lara Stein Pardo, *Tie Your Waist, and Gather Your Strength*, Digital Print, 11 x 17 inches, 2012.

This working collective of seven scholars will explore the problems of humanism and humanness across several interrelated fields, including anthropology, Black studies, geography, history of art and architecture, literary studies, and women and gender studies. Through collaborative and interdisciplinary engagements developed through thinking, research, and writing, members will generate and share primary research pertinent to both their discrete disciplines and the wider concerns of humanistic study. Topics of interest include aesthetics and cultural production, diaspora, feminism, gender, (collective) memory, representation, social survival and sustainability, and space, place, and geography.

Seed grant funding will support the development and broad dissemination of research findings, the creation of related pedagogical tools, and teach-ins and other collaborative forums for learning and exchange. Funding will also support professional development, including participation in conferences and other convenings and the organization of a public symposium at which collective members will present their work to the larger community. The funds will also help members develop new courses to offer to Brown's students.

- **Rebecca Louise Carter** (project co-director), Assistant Professor of Anthropology and Urban Studies
- **Courtney J. Martin** (project co-director), Assistant Professor of History of Art and Architecture
- **Karida L. Brown**, Ph.D. Candidate in Sociology, Cogut Center for the Humanities Graduate Fellow
- **Kimberly Juanita Brown**, Assistant Professor of African American Literature, Northeastern University
- **Patricia Anne Lott**, Ruth J. Simmons Postdoctoral Fellow, Center for the Study of Slavery and Justice
- **Lara Stein Pardo**, Postdoctoral Research Associate, John Nicholas Brown Center for Public Humanities and Cultural Heritage
- **Linda Quiquívix**, Independent Scholar