

TRANSLATING RACE

COLT 511, Section 22101 * Spring 2019 * Mondays 2 – 4:50 pm

Professor Olivia C. Harrison



Mohamed Rouabhi, *All Power to the People!*, Théâtre Le Colombier, March 2014

What would it mean to “translate” race? Can one compare heterogeneous experiences of racialization from one imperial formation to the next? Is it possible to account for contemporary notions of racial, cultural, and religious difference by studying the emergence of the modern conception of race more than five centuries ago? How does one translate the concept of race across languages? This seminar will trace the genealogy of intersecting notions of race across imperial formations and analyze the ways in which these notions have been “translated” across languages and (post)colonial contexts. Readings by Bartolomé de las Casas, Alexis de Tocqueville, Aimé Césaire, Albert Memmi, Frantz Fanon, Stokely Carmichael and Alexander Hamilton.

This seminar is an elective for the new translation studies graduate certificate, and is open to students in adjacent PhD programs. Knowledge of other languages is a plus but is not required.