Embodying the “discourse of rights:” Women’s Performance and the Terrains of Gender Justice in Jamaica

Professor Nicosia Shakes

THU 1.24.19 | McMillan Café | 11:30—1:00

In this talk, Nicosia Shakes revisits the Jamaican pro-choice activism of 2008-2009 through a critical analysis of the play, A Slice of Reality, produced by Sistren Theatre Collective. A Slice of Reality made history as the first play to be performed in the Jamaican Houses of Parliament. Shakes links this performance to the public activism against gender-based violence that gained ground in the English-speaking Caribbean from 2015 to 2018, including marches and social media campaigns. She argues that public theatre is a vital site of knowledge production on the intersections of gender, race and class in the Caribbean, and the spatial manifestations of gender inequalities.

Nicosia Shakes is Assistant Professor in The Department of Africana Studies at The College of Wooster. She earned her PhD in Africana Studies from Brown University in 2017. Her book manuscript, Gender, Race and Performance Space: Women’s Activism in Jamaican and South African Theatre, won the National Women’s Studies Association/University of Illinois Press (UIP) First Book Prize in 2017, and is under contract with UIP.

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