THE APORIA OF HUMAN RIGHTS: AN INTERDISCIPLINARY INQUIRY

Friday, May 1, 2015
10:00am - 4:30pm
University of California, Los Angeles
306 Royce Hall
Los Angeles, CA 90095

Keynote Speaker:
Loren Landau
Chair in Global Migration, the Fletcher School and the Friedman International Center, Tufts University

Panel I: Interrogating the Gains and Inadequacies of Human Rights

Moderator:
David Kim
Assistant Professor, Department of Germanic Languages, UCLA

Panelists:
Tendayi Achiume
Assistant Professor, School of Law, UCLA
Adam Branch
Associate Professor, Department of Political Science, San Diego State University
Susan Slyomovics
Professor of Anthropology and Near Eastern Languages and Culture, UCLA

Panel II: Human Rights Pedagogy from an Interdisciplinary Perspective

Moderator:
David Kim
Assistant Professor, Department of Germanic Languages, UCLA

Panelists:
Gil Hochberg
Associate Professor of Comparative Literature and Gender Studies, UCLA
Kathy O’Byrne
Director, UCLA Center for Community Learning
Jessica Peake
Director, International and Comparative Law Program, School of Law, UCLA

At the core of human rights is the principle that by virtue of being human every person claims inalienable rights to justice, peace, freedom, and dignity. However, the theoretical and practical implications of a turn to human rights are only partially understood. Even as the language of human rights increasingly frames emancipatory thoughts and movements around the globe, humanity alone is proving insufficient to guarantee individual rights and determine collective responsibilities.

Against the backdrop of this aporia, this interdisciplinary symposium concentrates on the possibilities and challenges of human rights today. What does a human rights framework do for the pursuit of equality, justice, peace or any of the other competing societal goods at which it aims? How do international migration, modern technology, economic globalization, religion, and secularism mediate human rights projects? To shed light on these and other themes, the symposium features a diverse group of scholars whose research and teaching explore them from various disciplinary perspectives.

Open to the public. Light refreshments will be served. Please RSVP here by April 24, 2015, or send direct inquiries to interdisciplinaryhumanrights@gmail.com

Convened by: Tendayi Achiume, David Kim, and Jessica Peake