



UCLA LUSKIN INSTITUTE ON

INEQUALITY AND DEMOCRACY

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Sanctuary Short III: ~~Enclosure~~: Geographies of Refusal, a toolkit

Questions guiding the short film

To think critically about sanctuary requires interrogating the role of the university and its reproduction of racial capitalism. How do you inhabit and transform the university?

In foregrounding the colonial relationalities that underpin the terms of sanctuary and asylum extended by the West to racial others, we seek to disrupt the universal grammar of Western humanism and hope to enact a “reworlding” of humanism. Please tell us how you think about these issues.

What is the practice of refusal and in what ways does it challenge reform and recognition? How should we think about refusal in relation to liberation?

Keywords

Reform	Humanism & The Human
Counterinsurgency	Transatlantic Slavery
White Reconstruction	European Enlightenment
DEI (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion)	Universalism
Representation	Refusal
Reconciliation	Abolition
Academia	Collectivity
Humanism	Black Radicalism
Discipline	Sovereignty
Representation	Hapticity
Neoliberalism	Relation
Racial Capitalism	Precarity
Surveillance	Black Feminism
Student Organizing	

Reading & Media List

Prologue: Reform and Recognition

readings

- Kaba, Mariame. 2021. *We Do This 'Til We Free Us: Abolitionist Organizing and Transforming Justice*. Chicago: Haymarket Books.
- Kelley, Robin D.G. 2016. [Black Study, Black Struggle](#). Boston Review.
- King, Martin Luther, Jr. 1963. [Letter from Birmingham Jail](#). University of Pennsylvania.
- Rodríguez, Dylan. 2020. [Reformism Isn't Liberation, It's Counterinsurgency](#). Kaepernick Publishing.

media

- Millennials Are Killing Capitalism. 2021. ["In The Spirit of Abolition" - Jailhouse Lawyers Speak Calls For Shut 'Em Down Demonstrations](#).
- Black Power Media. 2021. [Summit for Accountability In Social Movements](#). YouTube.

University

readings

- Harney, Stefano and Fred Moten. 2004. *The University and the Undercommons: Seven Theses*. Social Text, 79, 22:2, 101-115.
- Makdisi, Saree. 2021. [Blind Spot on Palestine and Palestinians at UCLA: An Open Letter](#). Los Angeles Review of Books.
- Evans, Gabe, Nick Mitchell, & Taylor Wondergem. 2021. [Scenes from the Wildcat Strike: A Documentary History](#). University of Minnesota Press Open Access Library.
- The Scholar and Feminist Online, Guest Edited by Sonya Munshi and Craig Willse. 2016. [Navigating Neoliberalism in the Academy, Nonprofits, and Beyond](#).
- Quan, H.L.T. & Tiffany Willoughby- Herard. 2013. *Black Ontology, Radical Scholarship and Freedom*. African Identities, 11:2, 109-116.
- Eaves, LaToya. 2020. *Fear of (An)other Geography*. Dialogues in Human Geography, 10:1, 34-36.

media

- CSRPC UChicago. 2021. [#MoreThanDiversity Critical University Studies with Rod Ferguson and Nick Mitchell](#). YouTube.
- CSRPC UChicago. 2021. [Truth, Reconciliation, and Reparations: Possibility and Accountability in Universities with Deborah Gray White, Marisa Fuentes, and Kirt Von Daacke](#). YouTube.

Humanism

readings

- Weheliye, Alexander. 2014. *Habeas Viscus: Racializing Assemblages, Biopolitics, and Black Feminist Theories of the Human*. Duke University Press.
- Katherine McKittrick, ed. 2015. *Sylvia Wynter: On Being Human as Praxis*. Duke University Press.
- Wynter, Sylvia. 2007. *On How We Mistook the Map for the Territory, and Re-Imprisoned Ourselves in Our Unbearable Wrongness of Being of Désêtre: Black Studies Toward the Human Project*. In Gordon L, and Gordon JA (Eds.), *A Companion to African-American Studies*.

media

- Millennials Are Killing Capitalism. 2021. [Rinaldo Walcott On Black Freedom And The Abolition Of Property](#).
- OISE University of Toronto. 2020. [2020 R.W.B. Jackson Lecture: Dionne Brand and Rinaldo Walcott](#). YouTube.

Refusal

readings

- Campt, Tina. 2019. [Black Visibility and the Practice of Refusal](#). Women and Performance.
- Simpson, Audra. 2017. *The Ruse of Consent and the Anatomy of Refusal: Cases from Indigenous America and Australia*. Postcolonial Studies, 20:1, 18-33.
- Karera, Axelle. 2021. *Black Feminist Philosophy and the Politics of Refusal*. In Kim Q. Hall, an Kim Q and Ásta(Eds.), The Oxford Handbook of Feminist Philosophy.
- Haley, Sarah. 2016. *No Mercy Here: "Gender, Punishment, and the Making of Jim Crow Modernity*. University of North Carolina Press.
- Bey, Marquis. 2017. [Ain't Never Scared: The Necessity of Learning from Black Feminist Refusal](#). RACE BAITR.

media

- Barnard Center for Research on Women. 2015. [Denise Ferreira da Silva - Hacking the Subject: Black Feminism, Refusal, and the Limits of Critique](#). YouTube.
- Barnard Center for Research on Women. 2018. [Visualizing Refusal: A Conversation with Tina Campt and Rizvana Bradley](#). YouTube.

Guiding Questions

Prologue: Reform and Recognition

- *How do the institutions you engage with respond to structural harm? How do you witness and experience reformist logics play out?*
- *Within an abolitionist politic, how do you envision the future of an institution like academia? Can it survive an abolitionist reckoning?*

University

- *What does being undisciplined mean to you? What are the stakes of organizing against the university apparatus for you?*
- *What does the desecration of the university conjure up for you? How might you re-imagine a space of higher education that refuses the terms of the current neoliberal university?*
- *If you are within the university, what role would you like to see tenured professors (or otherwise institutionally protected members of your community) play in organizing in the face of institutional harms?*

Humanism

- *Is the re-worlding of humanism a viable project to you? If not, what other projects reveal themselves?*
- *How do humanist metrics, ideologies, and practices show up in your critical arenas (whether that be academia, or other formalized spaces)? How do you uncover and disavow these violent structuring logics?*
- *Spend a moment considering the following question from the introduction of *Becoming Human: Matter and Meaning in an Antiracist World* (2020) by Zakiyyah Iman Jackson: "If being recognized as human offers no reprieve from ontologizing dominance and violence, then what might we gain from the rupture of 'the human'?"*

Refusal

- *How is a politics of refusal constituted, embodied, and articulated? What does the development of a politics of refusal necessitate of our imaginations? Our relations?*
- *To what daily or quotidian practices of refusal are you committed? How does refusal operate collectively in your communities?*