Resource Extraction and Racial Orders in Post/Colonial Ghana

If colonial rule in Africa depended upon a racial hierarchy that simultaneously consolidated supposedly “tribal” (ethnic) difference and white racial and cultural and political supremacy, what happens to this structure at the end of formal colonial rule? Following this, what does it mean to explore racial formations in our analyses of decolonization and the African postcolony? In this lecture, I use preliminary analysis from my current ethnographic and archival research on the political economy of resource extraction in Ghana to address these questions. Through an interrogation of some of the processes and contours of its racialized political economy, I hope to provoke a re-evaluation of the cultural politics of the African postcolony.

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