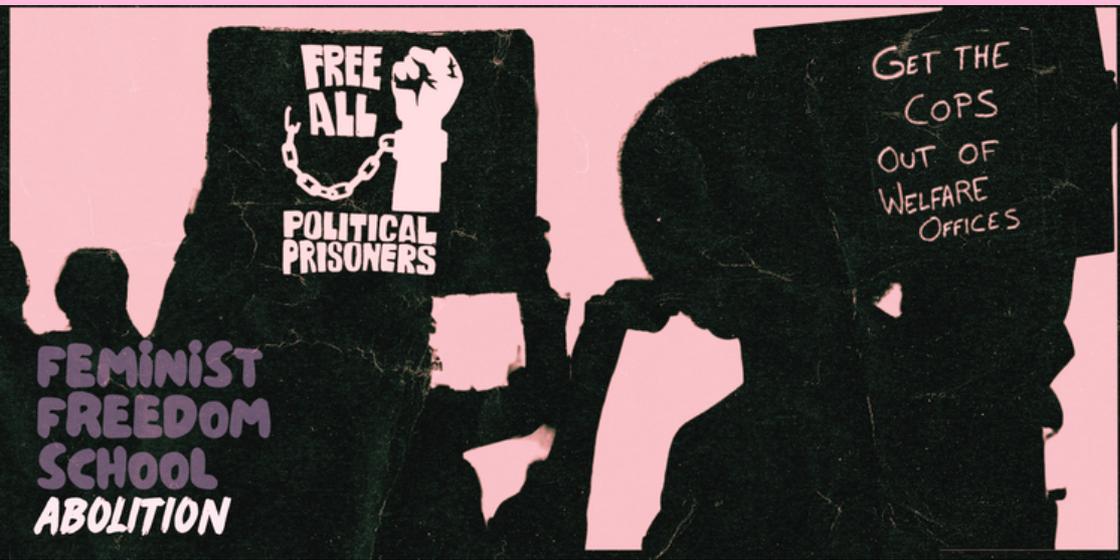


# BCRW FEMINIST FREEDOM SCHOOL



**BCRW** BARNARD CENTER FOR  
RESEARCH ON WOMEN

# ABOLITION FEMINISM

**MAY 2023**

**Milstein Center, Room 614  
Barnard College**

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# PARTICIPANTS

## TEACHERS

### UJJU AGGARWAL

she/her

Professor Aggarwal's research examines questions related to public infrastructures, urban space, racial capitalism, rights, gender, and the state. Her work has appeared in *Transforming Anthropology*; *Scholar & Feminist Online*; and *Feminists Rethink the Neoliberal State: Inequality, Exclusion, and Change*. She is the author of *Unsettling Choice: Race, Rights, and the Partitioning of Public Education*, Forthcoming, 2024.

### JOHANNA FERNANDEZ

Professor Fernandez's 2014 Freedom of Information (FOIL) lawsuit against the NYPD led to the recovery of the "lost" Handschu files, the largest repository of police surveillance records in the country. She is the writer and producer of *Justice on Trial: The Case of Mumia Abu-Jamal* and coeditor with Abu-Jamal of *The Roots of Mass Incarceration in the US: Locking Up Black Dissidents and Punishing the Poor*.

She is author of *The Young Lords: A Radical History*; her next project is on the historical roots of US Fascism.

### RACHEL HERZING

she/her

Rachel Herzing has been an organizer, fighting the violence of policing and imprisonment for over 20 years and is a leading voice in the PIC abolition movement. She is a co-founder of Critical Resistance and is the author of a treasure trove of writing on policing, abolition, and the Prison Industrial Complex; her work has appeared in venues including *The Black Scholar*, *Social Justice*, and *propter nos*. among many others.

### SOPHIE LEWIS

they/she

Sophie Lewis is an independent scholar, critical utopianist, and freelance writer living in Philadelphia. Dr. Lewis regularly publishes essays in such venues as *Harper's*, *The Nation*, *The New York Times*, the *London Review of Books*, and peer-reviewed journals like *Signs*, and *Feminist Theory* among other prominent outlets. She is the author of *Abolish the Family: A Manifesto for Care and Liberation* and *Full Surrogacy Now: Feminism Against Family*.

# PARTICIPANTS

## TEACHERS

### MON MOHAPATRA

she, her

Mon Mohapatra is an Indian abolitionist researcher, poet, and propagandist living on ancestral Canarsee land. Her work focuses on national and local jail moratoriums, supporting an end to caste apartheid, anti-surveillance obfuscation practices, and building intergenerational, interclass organizing capacity for abolitionist work in the so called US and beyond. She writes and thinks about disability, gender, ecology and ways of knowing across transnational histories. Her work has appeared in influential outlets including *Teen Vogue*, *The New Inquiry*, and *Harpers Bazaar*.

### DERECKA PURNELL

she/her

Derecka Purnell is a human rights lawyer and writer. She works to end police and prison violence by providing legal assistance, research, and training in community based organizations through an abolitionist framework. This work in political community includes organizations such as the Movement for Black Lives and Dream Defenders. She is a columnist at *The Guardian*. Her writing has been published widely, including in *The Harvard Journal of African American Policy*, *The New York Times*, *The Atlantic*, *The New York Magazine*, and *Teen Vogue*. She is editor of the newly-launched magazine *Hammer and Hope* and author of *Becoming Abolitionists: Police, Protests, and the Pursuit of Freedom*.

### ROMARILYN RALSTON

she/her

Romarilyn Ralston is the Executive Director of Project Rebound. She identifies as a Black, feminist abolitionist with an incarceration experience. She earned a Bachelor's degree in Gender & Feminist Studies from Pitzer College and a Master's degree in Liberal Arts from Washington University in St. Louis after 23 years of incarceration. She is a long-time member and organizer with the California Coalition for Women Prisoners and serves on the leadership committee. Her writing has appeared in *Ms.* and *Abolition Feminism vol. 1* among other venues and is a widely sought-after speaker on the topics of racial justice, feminism, and abolition.

### C. RILEY SNORTON

he/him

Professor Snorton is a cultural theorist who focuses on racial, sexual, and transgender histories and cultural productions. His writing, lectures, social justice, and artistic engagements have reshaped understandings of the racial constitution of gender. He is coediting the forthcoming volume of *The Flesh of the Matter: A Hortense Spillers Reader*. He is also the co-editor of *GLQ: A Journal of Gay and Lesbian Studies* (Duke University Press) and the author of *Nobody is Supposed to Know: Black Sexuality on the Down Low* and *Black on Both Sides: A Racial History of Trans Identity*.

# PARTICIPANTS

## TEACHERS

### EMILY THUMA

she/her

Professor Thuma is an interdisciplinary historian who works at the intersection of American studies, feminist and queer studies, critical race and ethnic studies, legal studies, and critical prison studies. Her research focuses on social movements and the politics and lived experience of criminalization and incarceration since the 1960s. She has worked in abolitionist organizing since 2000 and is the author of the groundbreaking abolitionist feminist text, *All Our Trials: Prisons, Policing, and the Feminist Fight to End Violence*.



# PARTICIPANTS

## ANA LUIZA DE ABREU CLAUDIO

she/her

PhD Student, Columbia University, Latin American and Iberian Cultures.

research areas: Brazilian feminist visual art, indigenous community making, performance.

## CASSIE GARBA

she/they

Columbia University  
interest: antiblackness, maternal violence, reproductive justice

## EVE GLAZIER

they/she

Barnard College

areas of interest: abolitionist organizing, jail abolition, carceral politics of gender responsiveness

## ANA SOFIA HARRISON

she/they

Barnard College  
areas of interest: intersection of reproductive justice, maternal health, and abolition

## SYDNEY JOHNSON

she/they

Barnard College

areas of interest: reproductive justice, anti-gentrification movements, feminist cultural theory

## INICA KOTASTHANE

she/her

Barnard College  
areas of interest: mutual aid, zine making, abolition



# PARTICIPANTS

## ALMA NÁJERA

they/them

Vassar College

areas of interest: decolonial  
organizing, healing, queer abolition

## KRISTEN SANTARIN

she/her

Barnard College

areas of interest: feminist pedagogy,  
radical care, praxis, mutual aid, university  
economies

## AVA SULLIVAN-THOMAS

she/her

Barnard College

areas of interest: abolitionist  
organizing, transformative justice,  
legal advocacy for imprisoned people.

## CAMILA PELSINGER VILLALBA

she/they

PhD Candidate, University of Oxford

research areas: abolitionist feminist  
responses to violence; transformative  
accountability



# COORDINATORS + STAFF

## SARAH HALEY

she/they

Professor Haley's research and writing focuses on Black feminist histories of the carceral state, abolition, feminist archival methods, gender and queer history. She has organized in the academic labor movement and currently organizes with Scholars for Social Justice. She is the author of *No Mercy Here: Gender, Punishment, and the Making of Jim Crow Modernity*.

## ASHE LEWIS

they/he

Ashe Lewis is a senior at Barnard College majoring in Education and Race and Ethnic Studies. He is interested in Queer, and decolonial studies that center on Blackness and is a BCRW research assistant.

## DESTINY JULIA SPRUILL

she/her

Destiny Spruill is an Arts & Media Assistant at AAPF. She is a musician and graduate of Columbia University, where she studied Political Science with a focus on Public Policy. She is passionate about finding ways to build community through the arts. Previously, Destiny has worked with the National Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression and as the graduate assistant for the Transnational Black Feminisms Working Group at Columbia University.

## SOPHIE KREITZBERG

they/she

Sophie Kreitzberg began with BCRW as an undergraduate volunteer who worked across several feminist, queer, and abolitionist projects before joining the BCRW staff as a Baccalaureate Fellow.

## PREMILLA NADASEN

she/her

Professor Nadasen has published extensively on the multiple meanings of feminism, alternative labor movements, and grass-roots community organizing and is most interested in visions of social change, and the ways in which poor and working-class women of color fought for social justice. She has worked with the National Domestic Workers Alliance, Damayan Migrant Workers Association, and the Mississippi Low-Income Child Care Initiative. She is the author of the field-shifting book *Welfare Warriors: The Welfare Rights Movement in the United States* and, most recently *Household Workers Unite*. She is currently writing a biography of South African singer and activist Miriam Makeba

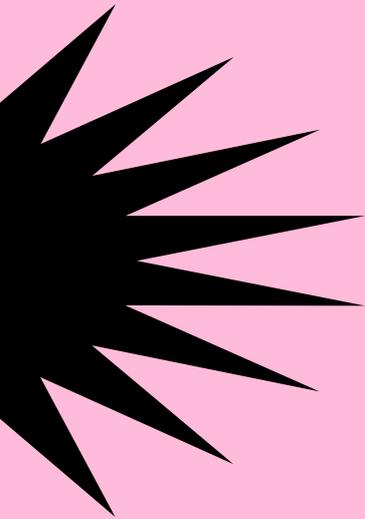
# Schedule

2023

Monday May 29	Tuesday May 30	Wednesday May 31	Thursday June 1	Friday June 2
Welcome 10-11am	gathering 10-11:00	Johanna Fernandez session 10-11:30	Ujju Aggarwal session 10-11:30	C. Riley Snorton Session 10-11:30
Derecka Purnell + Premilla Nadasen Conversation** 11am-12pm	11am Lunch			
12pm Lunch	12-1:30 Mon Mohapatra	12pm Lunch	12pm Lunch	12pm Lunch
Romarilyn Ralston, Emily Thuma + Sarah Haley conversation** 1-2pm	Rachel Herzing session 1:30-3	Film Screening	Sophie Lewis session 1-2:30	End of Freedom School
gathering 2-3pm				
		3:30 Marking Time Exhibition Schomburg Center	2:30-3 gathering 5:00pm Dinner	

Note: \*\*indicates virtual conversation. Gatherings are structured or unstructured time for exchanging ideas and questions and building connections.

# MATERIALS

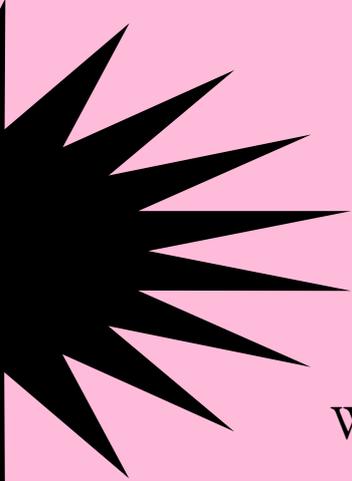


**The following essays, op-eds, organizing materials, and videos inform each session.**

**Please read or watch the materials in advance of the session they accompany. PDFs can be found in the Freedom School Readings dropbox folder as indicated on each page. While there are many pieces covering the many session themes, most links and essays are short. Listen/watch/read as much as you can...**

# DAY ONE

## DERECKA PURNELL + PREMILLA NADASEN in Conversation



What Would a Feminist Jail Look Like? *NY Times*  
[drobpoX folder](#)

<https://novaramedia.com/2018/08/01/just-paint-the-walls-pink-gender-prison-and-carceral-feminism/>

[https://www.womenscja.org/gloria\\_steinem\\_endorses\\_the\\_beyondrosies\\_campaign](https://www.womenscja.org/gloria_steinem_endorses_the_beyondrosies_campaign)

<https://www.teenvogue.com/story/feminist-jail-nyc-abolition>

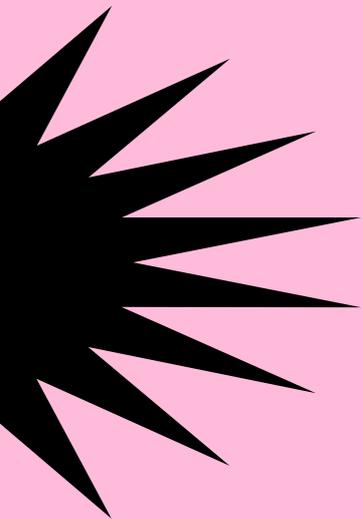
<https://citylimits.org/2022/07/14/opinion-rejecting-the-notion-of-a-feminist-jail-for-harlem/>

<https://truthout.org/articles/nyc-activists-push-back-against-proposed-feminist-womens-jail-in-harlem/>

<https://jacobin.com/2016/02/welfare-reform-bill-hillary-clinton-tanf-poverty-dlc>

# DAY ONE

## ROMARILYN RALSTON + EMILY THUMA + SARAH HALEY in conversation



*Caring Collectively:*

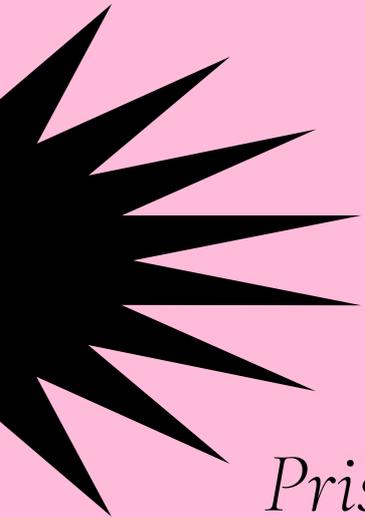
*Twenty-Five Years of Abolition Feminisms  
in California*

Emily Thuma, Joseph Hankins, Romarilyn Ralston, Victoria  
Law  
Dropbox Folder

<https://www.interruptingcriminalization.com/resources-all/6-ds-until-shes-free>

# DAY TWO

# RACHEL HERZING



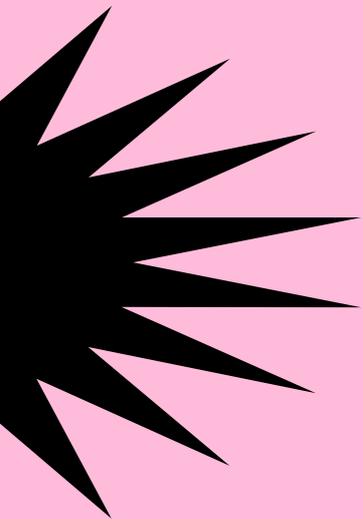
*Prison Abolition Concentric Circles*

Critical Resistance Los Angeles

[Dropbox Folder](#)

# DAY TWO

# MON MOHAPATRA



[No Women's Jail NYC Letter](#)

[ATIs & Criminalization](#)

[Watch Pieper's own words.](#)

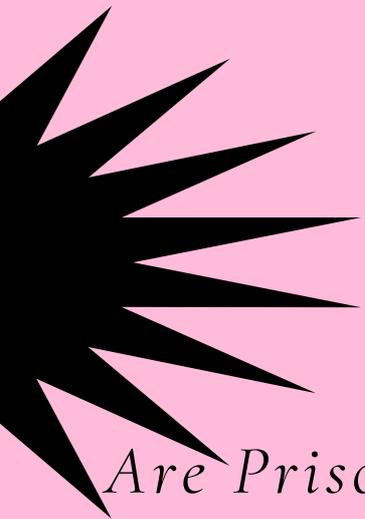
[Cage Free NYC](#)

[Eric Adams Remarks on Jordan Neely's Murder](#)

[Watch Trailer for Fly in Power](#)

# DAY THREE

## JOHANNA FERNANDEZ



*Are Prisons Obsolete? Ch 3: Imprisonment and Reform and Chapter 4: How Gender Structures the Prison System in Dropbox folder*

**ANGELA DAVIS**

*On the Historical Roots of American Fascism*

**JOHANNA FERNANDEZ**

*"Locking up Black Dissidents and Punishing the Poor: the Roots of Mass Incarceration"*

**MUMIA ABU-JAMAL & JOHANNA FERNANDEZ,**

# DAY FOUR

## UJJU AGGARWAL

*A Logic of Care and Black Grassroots Claims to Home in*

*Detroit*

**Jesse Quizar**

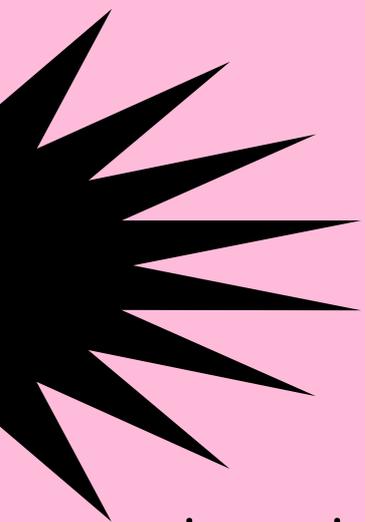
*Shifting the Ground Beneath Us*

**Alissa Trotz**

*United in Struggle:*

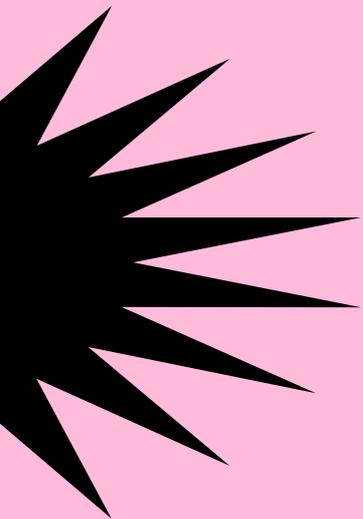
*an interview with Nick Estes, Ruth Wilson Gilmore, and  
Christopher Loperena*

All essays in [Dropbox Folder](#)  
(Please read at least two of these  
pieces)



# DAY FOUR

# SOPHIE LEWIS



*Experiments in Imagining Otherwise*

**Lola Olufemi**

*Communizing Care*

**ME O'Brien**

**Both essays in dropbox folder**

# DAY FIVE

## C. RILEY SNORTON



*Go Beyond Our Natural Selves: The Prison Letters  
of CeCe McDonald*

**CeCe McDonald, Omiseke Natasha Tinsley ed.**

*Excerpt, "Trans Capable Fungibility, Fugitivity, and the  
Matter of Being" in Black on Both Sides: A Racial History of  
Trans Identity*

**C. Riley Snorton**

**Both essays in dropbox folder**

...A LITTLE



**RALLY**

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

TIME \_\_\_\_\_

PLACE \_\_\_\_\_

**FREE**

POWER TO

THE ICE

JOANNE LITTLE

**CHECK THE FREEDOM  
SCHOOL GOOGLE FOLDER  
AT THE END OF THE  
FREEDOM SCHOOL, AS WE  
WILL BUILD A  
RECOMMENDED READING  
LIST & DROP SELECTED  
EXCERPTS THROUGHOUT  
THE WEEK.**