

VISIONS OF RACIAL JUSTICE AND CHILDHOOD:

INEQUALITIES, IDENTITIES,
POLITICS, RELATIONALITIES
AND REPRESENTATIONS



A BIENNIAL MULTIDISCIPLINARY CONFERENCE
RUTGERS UNIVERSITY-CAMDEN
JUNE 6-8, 2024





WELCOME TO VISIONS OF RACIAL JUSTICE AND CHILDHOOD: INEQUALITIES, IDENTITIES, POLITICS, RELATIONALITIES AND REPRESENTATIONS

SPONSORED BY:

The Department of Childhood Studies,
Rutgers University-Camden

Mellon Foundation



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**SCAN THE QR CODE BELOW TO VIEW
ABSTRACTS FOR EACH PRESENTATION
OR VISIT:
GO.RUTGERS.EDU/RJCC-ABSTRACTS**



CONFERENCE AT A GLANCE

THURSDAY, JUNE 6

REGISTRATION AND BREAKFAST

Registration (Main Lobby) and breakfast (Scarlet Lounge) begin at 9:00 a.m. and end at 10:00 a.m.

10:00 AM - 11:30 AM

Spotlight Panel: Visions of Racial Justice and Childhood

11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

Lunch

1:00 PM - 2:30 PM

Session 1

2:30 PM - 3:00 PM

Break

3:00 PM - 4:30 PM

Session 2

5:30 PM - 6:30 PM

Dinner (For pre-registered participants). See registration for additional tickets.

FRIDAY, JUNE 7

REGISTRATION AND BREAKFAST

Registration (Main Lobby) and breakfast (Scarlet Lounge) will begin at 8:00 a.m. Registration will end at 12:00 p.m.

9:00 AM - 10:30 AM

Session 3

10:30 AM - 11:00 AM

Break

11:00 AM - 12:30 PM

Session 4

12:30 PM - 1:30 PM

Lunch

1:30 PM - 3:00 PM

Session 5

3:00 PM - 3:30 PM

Break

3:30 PM - 5:00 PM

Session 6

5:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Cocktail Reception

6:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Keynote: Habiba Ibrahim, *University of Washington*, Associate Professor, "Black Age and the Art of Watchfulness."

SATURDAY, JUNE 8

BREAKFAST

Breakfast (Scarlet Lounge) will begin at 8:00 a.m. and end at 9:00 a.m.

9:00 AM - 10:30 AM

Session 7

10:30 AM - 11:00 AM

Break

11:00 AM - 12:30 PM

Session 8

12:30 PM - 1:30 PM

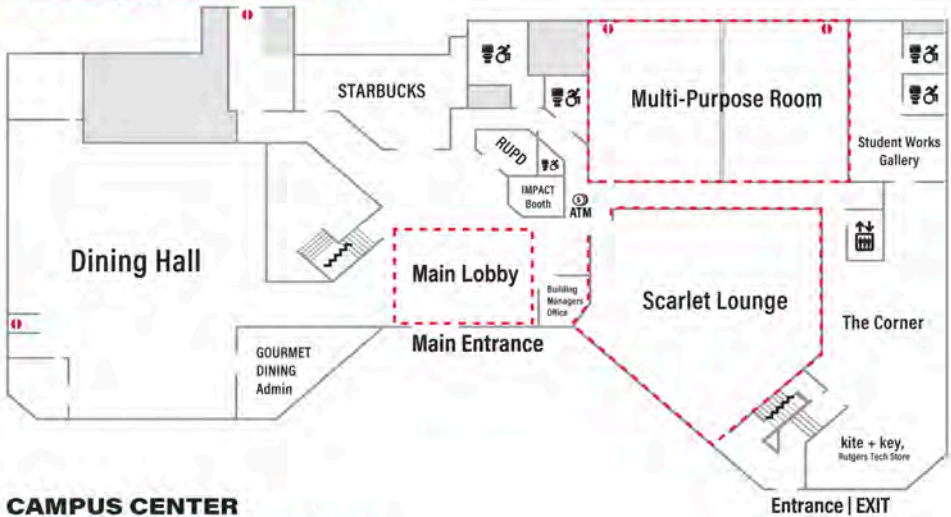
Lunch and Conference Closing

CAMPUS MAP



CAMPUS CENTER ROOM MAP


CAMPUS CENTER MAIN LEVEL



CAMPUS CENTER LOWER LEVEL



----- Conference meeting spaces

-  Elevator
-  Restroom
-  Stairs
-  Vending Machines
-  Emergency Exit

THURSDAY, JUNE 6

REGISTRATION AND BREAKFAST

Registration (Main Lobby) and breakfast (Scarlet Lounge) begin at 9:00 a.m. Breakfast will end at 10:00 a.m. Registration will end at 12:00 p.m.



SPOTLIGHT PANEL: VISIONS OF RACIAL JUSTICE AND CHILDHOOD

10:00 AM - 11:30 AM

Multi-Purpose Room

Chair: Karina Ruiz, *UC Santa Cruz*

Destiny Crockett, *Rutgers-Camden*

Paula Austin, *Boston University*

Desirée de Jesús, *York University*

Karina Ruiz, *UC Santa Cruz*

11:30 AM - 1:00 PM LUNCH

Scarlet Lounge

SESSION 1

1:00 PM - 2:30 PM

1A: Narratives and Expressions of Racialized Childhoods

South Conference Room

Chair: Samira Abdur-Rahman, *The College of New Jersey*

Rachel Conrad, *Hampshire College*
"I'll wait till the white day is done": Young Black Poets' Visions of Race, Time, and Conditions of Freedom in The Voice of the Children Workshop

Dhruvil Bhatt, *Gujarat University*
In Quest of Racial Justice: Rewriting the Narratives in Media

Samira Abdur-Rahman, *The College of New Jersey*
'I am in love with freedom and children:' Assata Shakur and the Insurgent Poetics of Black Childhood

1A Continued...

Alba Aragón, *Bridgewater State University*
Chronicling the Unspeakable: Immigration and Childhood in Valeria Luiselli's *Los niños perdidos* (2014) and Juan Pablo Villalobos *Yo tuve un sueño* (2019)

1B: Racialized Spaces of Un/Schooling

West Conference Room

Chair: Aïsha Philippe, *Harvard University*

Rachel Klepper, *Columbia University*
Visions of Childhood and Race in the History of New York City's Afterschool Programs

Aïsha Philippe, *Harvard University*
Mande "Sa Kap Vini Pou Lekòl Ann Ayiti" (Asking "What's Next for Schools in Haiti")

Courtney Douglass, *University of Maryland*
Enter the Genius Zone: The Case Study of a Black Unschooling Community Center

Alexandra Freidus, *University of Connecticut*
Beyond School Integration? Toward a More Powerful Conceptualization of Racial Justice in Childhood and Educational Studies

2:30 PM - 3:00 PM BREAK

THURSDAY, JUNE 6

SESSION 2

3:00 PM - 4:30 PM

**2A: Roundtable: Book Discussion:
Bloomsbury Handbook of Theories in
Childhood Studies**

West Conference Room

Chair: Sarada Balagopalan, *Rutgers-Camden*

Paula Austin, *Boston University*
Sarada Balagopalan, *Rutgers-Camden*
Utsa Mukherjee, *Brunel University*
Rachel Rosen, *University College London*
Jessica Taft, *UC Santa Cruz*
John Wall, *Rutgers-Camden*
Karen Wells, *Birkbeck University of London*

2B: Colonialism and Racialized Childhoods
South Conference Room

Chair: Thaís de Carvalho, *The Open University*

Thaís de Carvalho, *The Open University*
Settling childhood in a 'savage' land: child governance and colonialism in Amazonia

Niyati Gangwar Sharma, *University of Delhi*
'Kahīn kāle aur Kahīn gore kyun?' ('Why are people somewhere black and somewhere white?'): Conceptions of Race in Vernacular Children's Literature in Colonial North India.

Leila Angod, *Carleton University*
The Flexibility of White Supremacy in Settler Colonial Canada: Racialized Girls Theorizing Elite School Life

Smruthi Bala Kannan, *University of Chicago*
Caring Infrastructures, Science lessons, and Hygienic Futures: historicizing adolescent children's relational experiences of schooling and cleanliness in Tamil Nadu, India

CONFERENCE DINNER
5:30 PM - 7:00 PM

Mult-Purpose Room

*** For ticket holders only ***



FRIDAY, JUNE 7

REGISTRATION AND BREAKFAST

Registration (Main Lobby) and breakfast (Scarlet Lounge) will begin at 8:00 a.m. Breakfast will end at 9:00 a.m. Registration will end at 12:00 p.m.

SESSION 3 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM

3A: Fighting Feelings: Lessons in Gendered Racism & Queer Life - An author-meets-readers discussion
Executive Meeting Room

Chair: Kate Cairns, *Rutgers-Camden*

Leila Angod, *Carleton University*
Kate Cairns, *Rutgers-Camden*
Gulzar Charania, *University of Ottawa*
Karishma Desai, *Rutgers-New Brunswick*
Hannah Dyer, *Brock University*

3B: Resistance and Early Childhood Education
South Conference Room

Chair: Claudine Lam, *Melbourne Polytechnic*

Alexia Buono, *University of Vermont*
Abolitionist Teacher Education for Early Childhood Educators

Erica Clarke Yardy, *The City University of New York*
Appropriate for Whom? A Critical Examination of Diverse Representation in Children's Literacy
Erica Clarke Yardy is presenting with Lacey Elizabeth Peters, Omotola Omoyele, Tara Kirton, and Zenovia Duke.

Claudine Lam, *Melbourne Polytechnic*
Repertoires of Resistance: The Lived Experiences of Early Childhood Educators of Color

Mirjam Piepot, *Radboud University*
Black Girl Resistance through the Ages

3C: Research with Young People
West Conference Room

Chair: Taryn Brown, *University of Florida*

Taryn Brown, *University of Florida*
The State of Black Girls in Alternative Education: Understanding the Educational and Well-Being Needs of Black Girls

Amy Best, *George Mason University*
Youth Engagement in Neighborhood Planning: A Lens into Visions of Racial Justice
Amy Best is presenting with Khaseem Davis, *George Mason University*, and the YRC Fellows, *George Mason University*

Melissa Thompson, *Rutgers-Camden*
Youth Research Council: System-level change through anti-racist, youth-led research

Deja Jones, *Honeypot Montessori*
How They Play: Narratives of Black Children's Engagement with Nature

10:30 AM - 11:00 AM BREAK

SESSION 4 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM

4A: Archives + Material Culture
South Conference Room

Chair: Kiana Murphy, *Brown University*

Usha Mudiganti, *Ambedkar University*
Race at Play in Indian Postcolonial Girlhood

Kiana Murphy, *Brown University*
Blackgirl Archival Genealogies in Octavia Butler's Parable series

Destiny Crockett, *Rutgers-Camden*
Black Feminist Archiving the Ordinary as Liberationist Praxis

LaTiana Ridgell, *Rutgers-Camden*
Just For Me: The Construction of Black Girlhood Through Children's Hair Relaxer Advertisements

FRIDAY, JUNE 7

4B: Racism and Everyday Life

West Conference Room

Chair: Utsa Mukherjee, *Brunel University*

Utsa Mukherjee, *Brunel University*
Racial justice and children's everyday leisure through the prism of critical race theory

Karina Ruiz, *UC Santa Cruz*
Methodologies for making and documenting joy

RaSheeda Brown, *Claflin University*
Just Because It's Not Happening to you doesn't mean you shouldn't be concerned!

Janene Ryan, *Rutgers-Camden*
Preparing for Assault: Mapping the Historical Construction of "The Talk"

4C: Roundtable: Youth Justice in Texas, Lessons from Past and Present

Executive Meeting Room

Chair: Michaela Pommells, *Youth First Justice Collaborative, Philadelphia, PA*

Bill Bush, *Texas A&M University-San Antonio*
Alycia Castillo, *Texas Civil Rights Project, Finish the 5 Campaign*
Jovi Smith, *Collective Action for Youth*

12:30 PM - 1:30 PM LUNCH

Scarlet Lounge

SESSION 5

1:30 PM - 3:00 PM

5A: Gun Violence and Black Youth: The Power of Collaborative Filmmaking for Healing, Reflection, and Hope

South Conference Room

Chair: Nora Gross, *Barnard College*

Nora Gross, *Barnard College*
Our Philadelphia

5A continued...

Maxayn Gooden, *Credible Messenger Reporting Project*
Lasting Impact

Shameka Sawyer, *SunKissed Group*
Bout Mine I Matter Full Circle

5B: Resisting the Dehumanization of Palestinian Children

West ABC Conference Room

Chair: Rachel Rosen, *University College London*

Johara Shamaa, *Youth Organizer, Philadelphia, Organizing for Justice in Palestine*

Rachel Rosen and Feryal Awan, *University College London*
Letters for Palestinian Childhoods: Academic responsibility in the face of genocide

Yamila Hussein Shannan, *independent researcher*

Hannah Dyer, *Brock University*
Aesthetics and Refusal in *A Child's View from Gaza*.

5C: Digital Cultures

Executive Meeting Room

Chair: Kacey Doran, *Rowan University*

Kacey Doran, *Rowan University*
Esports and the Material Realities for Young People of Color

Briana Ellerbe, *University of Southern California*
Reimagining Representation in Children's Media: Critical Media Reflections of Black Millennial parents

Laila Nashid, *Cornell University*
Scrolling Through Open Fields: Understanding Narratives of Black Girlhood as Constructed by Black Girls via Social Media Aesthetics

3:00 PM - 3:30 PM BREAK

FRIDAY, JUNE 7

SESSION 6
3:30 PM - 5:00 PM

6A: Radicalized Borders and Boundaries
South Conference Room

Chair: Alyvia Walters, *Rutgers-New Brunswick*

Maddy Fox, *City University of New York*,
A Way Out of No Way: Reconciling Equity,
Integration, and Accountabilities In a School
Rezoning

Alyvia Walters, *Rutgers-New Brunswick*
From Parental Rights to Progressive
Indoctrination: Conservative Child-Saving as
a Tool of White Nationalism in the 2022
Senate Campaigns

Mahesh Bhatt, *Government Science College,*
Gujarat, India

Depiction of Racial Issues in Diaspora
Writings: A Critical study of Bye Bye Black
Bird by Anita Desai

Cecelela Tomi, *Rutgers-Camden*
(Re)directing the Conversation: The Binti
Test

Rachel Rosen and Veena Meeto, *University*
College London
The racialised production of the
'unaccompanied minor': interrogation as and
for racial justice

6B Theorizing and Historicizing Race
West Conference Room

Chair: Karen Wells, *Birkbeck University of*
London

Karen Wells, *Birkbeck University of London*
Children, racism, and a sentimental visual
culture

6B Continued...

Shree Deshpande, *University of Hawaii-Manoa*
Towards friendship and beyond: Intervening
in the disqualification of Black children for
alternatives to the American (anti)social
contract

Jessica Taft, *UC Santa Cruz*
Naming Colonialism, Capitalism, and Anti-
Blackness: Counter-Hegemonic Perspectives
in the International Child Rights Sector

Inés Botto, *University of Wisconsin-Madison*
Theorizing Trajectories of White Children's
Racial Identity Development in Antiracist
Contexts

COCKTAIL RECEPTION
5:00 PM - 6:00 PM
Scarlet Lounge

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

FRIDAY, JUNE 7 FROM 6:00 PM - 7.30 PM
CAMPUS CENTER, MULTI-PURPOSE ROOM



DR HABIBA IBRAHIM

PROFESSOR, DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH,
UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

"BLACK AGE AND THE ART OF WATCHFULNESS."

Habiba Ibrahim is Professor and Associate Chair of English at the University of Washington in Seattle. She is the author of *Troubling the Family: The Promise of Personhood and the Rise of Multiracialism* (University of Minnesota Press, 2012) and *Black Age: Oceanic Lifespans and the Time of Black Life* (NYU Press, 2021). *Black Age* received the honorable mention for the Harry Shaw and Katrina Hazzard-Donald Award for Outstanding Work in African-American Popular Culture Studies, given by the Popular Culture Association in 2022. She co-edited the January 2022 special issue of *South Atlantic Quarterly*, "Black Temporality in Times of Crisis." Among other venues, Ibrahim's work appears in *African American Review*, *American Literary History*, *Anthropology and Humanism*, and *Keywords for African American Studies*.

SATURDAY, JUNE 8

BREAKFAST

Breakfast (Scarlet Lounge) will begin at 8:00 a.m. and end at 9:00 a.m.

SESSION 7 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM

7A: Mapping Black Girlhoods within a Canadian Context
South Conference Room

Chair: Kisha McPherson, *Toronto Metropolitan University*

Desirée de Jesús, *York University*
"We are important:" Visualizing Black Girl Agency and Meaning-making through Collage Research Practices

Crystal Webster, *University of British Columbia*
Black Girlhood as Historical Method

Kisha McPherson, *Toronto Metropolitan University*
Who is entitled to childhood and innocence? Black girls and belonging in Canada

7B: Youth and Racial Justice
West Conference Room

Chair: Arpita Sarkar, *University of Iowa*

Paula Austin, *Boston University*
"I Would Carry A Sign:" Young Black People on Racial Justice

Dinah Johnson, *University of South Carolina*
We Are Not Quitters: A Middle Grade Manuscript Inspired by the Story of Ty'Sheoma Bethea

Arpita Sarkar, *University of Iowa*
Where are the Dalits and Disabled childhood experiences in racial justice conversation?

Jeffrey Ring, *Health Psychologist/Leadership Coach*
The Role of Humanities in Dismantling Racism

10:30 AM - 11:00 AM BREAK

SESSION 8 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM

8A: Picture Books, YA Lit, and Racial Justice
South Conference Room

Chair: Laronnda Thompson, *University of Pennsylvania*

Laronnda Thompson, *University of Pennsylvania*
Possibility in Kids Lit. and Racial Justice

Katharine Slater, *Rowan University*
Maybe Tomorrow: Ruby (1976) and Sapphic YA's Queer Migrations

Melissa Jenkins, *Wake Forest University*,
Ghost Boys and Water Babies

Heather Matthews, *Salisbury University*,
Thirty seven percent: Examining non-human entities in picturebooks for markers of race

Margaret Banks, *Columbia University*
Black Girls' Respectable Futurity in Ntozake Shange's Betsey Brown

8B: Relationalities
West Conference Room

Chair: Elaysel German, *Rutgers-Camden*

Alissa G. Irvin, *University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign*, with Cori Irvin and Jordan Irvin
How Many Before Mine? Resisting Anti-Blackness in the Classroom

Lauren Silver, *Rutgers-Camden*
Radical Kincrafting as Abolitionist Praxis-- Blurring the Adult/Child Border

Larissa Ahanhanzo, *University College London*
Seeking 'Truths' in Tales - For the child or for the nation?

Elaysel German, *Rutgers-Camden*
Black Feminist Care in the Anthropocene

12:30 PM - 1:30 PM LUNCH
Campus Center, Multi-Purpose Room



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