



PUTTING SEX BACK INTO QUEER THEORY

BLACK GAY MEN AND THE POLITICS OF DICK

A LECTURE BY

RINALDO WALCOTT

13 MARCH, 15:30 TO 17:00

TELUS CENTRE 150

ABSTRACT

Dr. Walcott suggests that Queer Theory has abandoned discussions of sex in favor of affect and other forms of abstraction. He argues that the very materiality of Black queer lives require that Black queer theory re-engages sex. While in some circumstances the HIV epidemic is now understood as reaching its end point, for Black queer men the idea of end is not yet in sight. The paper moves between the materiality of HIV/AIDS for Black queer men, music, and film to make a case for thinking Black sex beyond the abstractions of Queer Theory.

BIOGRAPHY

Rinaldo Walcott is Professor and Director of the Women and Gender Studies Institute at the University of Toronto. His research is centered in Black diaspora politics, gender and sexuality, and decolonial politics. Rinaldo is the author of *Black Like Who: Writing Black Canada* (Insomniac Press, 1997; 2nd revised edition, 2003; 20th anniversary issue, 2018) and *Queer Returns: Essays on Multiculturalism, Diaspora and Black Studies* (Insomniac Press, 2016). He is also the editor of *Rude: Contemporary Black Canadian Cultural Criticism* (Insomniac, 2000) and the Co-editor with Roy Moodley of *Counselling Across and Beyond Cultures: Exploring the Work of Clement Vontress in Clinical Practice* (University of Toronto Press, 2010). Rinaldo has several forthcoming works, including *The Long Emancipation: Moving Towards (Black) Freedom, An Essay*, *Black Diaspora Faggoty: Frames Readings Limits*, and *BlackLife: Post-BLM and the Struggle for Freedom*.