



Gender and Sexualities Workshop

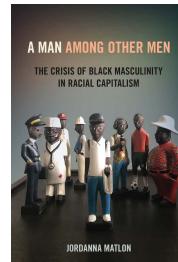
“Digital Book Club” Meetings

fall 2022 | All meetings this quarter will take place digitally over Zoom

The Sociology Department’s Gender and Sexualities Workshop is a group of faculty and graduate students who meet regularly to present and discuss new research.

A Man among Other Men:
The Crisis of Black Masculinity in Racial Capitalism
(Cornell University Press, 2022)

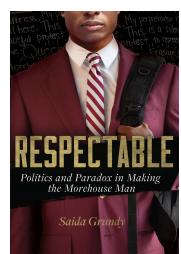
Jordanna Matlon
Assistant Professor, School of International Service, American University



Friday, October 21 @ 1:00-2:30pm PST
Zoom link to be provided



A Man among Other Men examines competing constructions of modern manhood in the West African metropolis of Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire. Engaging the histories, representational repertoires, and performative identities of men in Abidjan and across the Black Atlantic, Matlon shows how French colonial legacies and media tropes of Blackness act as powerful axes, rooting masculine identity and value within labor, consumerism, and commodification. Through a broad chronological and transatlantic scope that culminates in a deep ethnography of the livelihoods and lifestyles of men in Abidjan's informal economy, Matlon demonstrates how men's subjectivities are formed by and through hegemonic ideologies of race and patriarchy. Matlon provides a theoretically innovative, historically grounded, and empirically rich account of Black abjection set against the anticipation of male privilege, a story of the long crisis of Black masculinity in racial capitalism.



Respectable: Politics and Paradox in Making the Morehouse Man

(University of California Press, 2022)

Saida Grundy
Assistant Professor of Sociology and African American Studies,
Boston University

Friday, November 18 @ 1:00-2:30PST

Zoom link to be provided

How does it feel to be groomed as the “solution” to a national Black male “problem”? This is the guiding paradox of *Respectable*, an in-depth examination of graduates of Morehouse College, the nation’s only historically Black college for men. The image of Black male success that Morehouse assiduously promotes and celebrates is belied by many of the realities that challenge the students on this campus. *Respectable* gathers the experiences of former students and others connected to Morehouse to illustrate the narrow, conservative vision of masculinity molded at a competitive Black institution. The men interviewed unveil confining ideas of respectable Black manhood within a context of relentless peer competition and sexual violence, measured against unattainable archetypes. Grundy underlines the high costs of making these men—the experiences of low-income students who navigate class issues at Morehouse, the widespread homophobia laced throughout the college’s notions of Black male respectability, and the crushingly conformist expectations of a college that sees itself as making “good” Black men.

