Adrienne D. Davis

Professor Adrienne Davis serves as Vice Provost and William M. Van Cleve Professor of Law at Washington University in St. Louis. She is renowned for her scholarship and teaching on gender and race relations; theories of justice and reparations; feminist legal theory; and law and popular culture. She has written extensively on the gendered and private law dimensions of American slavery and is the co-editor of the book, *Privilege Revealed: How Invisible Preference Undermines America* (NYU Press). A Distinguished Lecturer for the Organization of American Historians, Professor Davis directs the Black Sexual Economies Project at the law school’s Center for the Interdisciplinary Study of Work and Social Capital and is founder and director of the Law & Culture Initiative.

Irregular Intimacies and the Sexual Politics of Democracy: A Racial Genealogy

Although courts have now settled the issue of marriage equality between same sex couples, intimate practices that depart from the norm continue to pose regulatory and cultural conflicts. Examples of such irregular intimacies include polygamy, prostitution, and pet inheritance. This lecture takes up these examples as more than quixotic irregularities. Rather, it approaches them through the lens of what it characterizes as the original irregular intimacy—slavery and its shadow families. This racialized lens excavates slavery’s sexual political economies, demonstrating how their norms, if not their rules, remain at work in shaping what we might think of as the sexual politics of democracy and the possibility of good intimate citizenship.

Monday, October 16, 2017

4:30p.m.– 6:30p.m.

McCormick Foundation Center Auditorium
1870 Campus Drive • Northwestern University • Evanston, IL
Reception to follow.

Free and open to the public. • No tickets or reservations required.

For more information, contact Elizabeth Foster at wcas-events@northwestern.edu

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