

AMERICAN STUDIES CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27

4:30-5:30 p.m.

RECEPTION

Alexander G. Hill Ballroom,
Kagin Commons
Macalester College



6-7:30 p.m.

PRESENTATIONS

Alexander G. Hill Ballroom,
Kagin Commons

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28

Noon-1:30 p.m..

LUNCH AND PANEL DISCUSSION: "BEING MIXED"

A Candid Conversation: The Experiences of Being Mixed Race

Ralina L. Joseph, Laura Kina, Shannon Gibney and
Marcus Gardley.

Weyerhaeuser Boardroom and Lounge
Macalester College

7-9 p.m..

READINGS AND PERFORMANCE

Featuring Playwright Marcus Gardley, Author Shannon Gibney
and Macalester Students

Weyerhaeuser Memorial Chapel
Macalester College

15TH ANNUAL AMERICAN STUDIES CONFERENCE

The American Studies Department at Macalester College is honored to host the 15th annual American Studies Conference, "Mixed Race America: Identities and Culture."

Held every February during Black History Month, the conference brings renowned scholars to campus to present their work and engage with faculty, staff, students, alumni and Twin Cities residents. The conference seeks to highlight the links between scholarship, activism and civic engagement. Each year a different theme is selected based on pertinent issues.

The American Studies Department serves as the academic focal point for the study of race and ethnicity in a national and transnational framework.

For more information on the American Studies Department or this event, contact Kathie Scott at scott@macalester.edu

Sponsored by the American Studies Department
Macalester College
www.Macalester.edu/americanstudies



The artwork on the cover was designed by Ricardo Levins Morales

15TH ANNUAL AMERICAN STUDIES CONFERENCE

Mixed Race America: Identities and Culture



Ralina L. Joseph
U Washington

Laura Kina
DePaul University

Thursday, February 27, 2014
6-7:30 p.m.
Alexander G. Hill Ballroom
Kagin Commons, Macalester

MACALESTER COLLEGE

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Laura Kina



Mixed Race Asian American Art: On Becoming and Unbecoming a “Happy Hapa”

Laura Kina will talk about her artwork and “hapa” identity. She is the co-author/curator of the traveling art exhibition and book *War Baby/Love Child: Mixed Race Asian American Art*. Kina will share how other contemporary Asian American artists of mixed heritage contextualize their lives and works against larger histories of colonization, war, migration, and contemporary demographic and social changes. By examining artworks created by mixed-race Asian Americans, the focus shifts away from being objects of study to that of being producers of their own images. In pushing against the ontological

tendency to simply read race in the face/body, Kina hopes to create a far more “messy” and complex visual understanding of multiraciality.

Laura Kina is a visual artist, curator and Vincent de Paul Associate Professor of Art, Media, & Design at DePaul University. Her artwork deals with themes of distance and belonging and her research is focused on Asian American and mixed race identity and history. Kina identifies as “hapa yonsei Uchinanchu” (mixed race Asian, 5th generation-Okinawan American). She earned her B.F.A. from the Art Institute of Chicago and M.F.A. from the University of Illinois at Chicago. She is the coauthor of *War Baby/Love Child: Mixed Race Asian American Art*; co-founder of the DePaul biennial Critical Mixed Race Studies conference, and co-founder and editor of the *Journal of Critical Mixed Race Studies* through University of California Santa Barbara. Her artwork has been exhibited across the United States and in India and Japan. Diversity MBA Magazine selected Kina as one of the “Top 100 Executive & Emerging Leaders Under 50” in the U.S.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Ralina L Joseph



Does “Mixed” Mean “Post-Race”? An Examination of 21st Century Media Representations of African American Multiraciality

The term “post-race” has been debated in popular culture since mixed-race candidate Barack Obama became a leading contender for President. What does this term really mean? Does the “post” signify “after,” or does it mean “different”? Is the term “post-race,” solely applicable to certain racialized bodies? How about mixed-race black bodies? This talk examines popular U.S. media representations surrounding post-race and mixed-race blackness. Have mixed-race African Americans been marked by an anti-black notion of “post-race” that denigrates blackness

and prescribes black transcendence? An examination of “post-race” as it pertains to mixed-race African American representation opens up discussions as to how definitions of race continue to change in 21st century America.

Ralina L. Joseph is an Associate Professor in the University of Washington’s Department of Communication and in the Departments of American Ethnic Studies and Gender, Women, and Sexuality Studies. She received her Ph.D. and M.A. in Ethnic Studies from the University of California, San Diego and B. A. in American Civilization from Brown University. Her book, *Transcending Blackness: From the New Millennium Mulatta to the Exceptional Multiracial* (Duke University Press, 2013), critiques anti-Black racism in mixed-race African American representations in the decade leading up to Obama’s 2008 election. She is currently working on her second book, *Screening Strategic Ambiguity: Black Women, Television Culture and the Post-Identity Dance*. She co-founded, WIRED (Women Investigating Race, Ethnicity, and Difference).

PANELIST

Marcus Gardley

is a poet-playwright and 2012 James Baldwin Fellow, who was awarded the 2011 PEN/Laura Pels award for Mid-Career Playwright. His most recent play, *Every Tongue Confess*, starring Phylicia Rashad and directed by Kenny Leon, premiered at Arena Stage. He has produced six other plays, including the acclaimed productions of *On The Levee*, and *Jesus Moonwalks the Mississippi*. He also recently produced *The Road Weeps*, *The Well Runs Dry* at the Pillsbury House Theater in Minneapolis as a part of a national tour. He holds an MFA in Playwriting from the Yale Drama School and is a member of New Dramatists, The Dramatists Guild, and The Lark Play Development Center. He is a Professor of Theater and Performance Studies at Brown University.



PANELIST

Shannon Gibney

is a teacher, writer, and activist in Minneapolis. Her critical and creative writing has appeared regularly in a variety of publications, including *Gazillion Voices*. Her young adult novel *Hank Aaron’s Daughter* is currently being released by CQT Press. Other publications include an essay on Octavia Butler in *The Black Imagination, Science Fiction, and the Speculative*, and another on artistic and political collaboration in *Critical Transnational Feminist Praxis*. She formerly was the editor of the *Minnesota Spokesman-Recorder*, the state’s oldest Black newspaper.