December 6 & 7, 2022

Join us for two events, a film screening (followed by Q&A) and combined book launch & lecture, with cultural anthropologist Damani J. Partridge
Damani J. Partridge (Ph.D. University of California, Berkeley, 2003) is Professor of Anthropology and Afroamerican and African Studies and a German Department affiliate at the University of Michigan. His writing examines noncitizenship, sexuality, post-Cold War ‘freedom’, Holocaust memorialization, African-American military occupation, ‘Blackness’ and embodiment, and the Obama moment in Berlin. He directs the Filming Future Cities Project in Berlin and Detroit. In 2012, he published *Hypersexuality and Headscarves: Race, Sex, and Citizenship in the New Germany*. UC Press will publish *Blackness as a Universal Claim: Holocaust Heritage, Noncitizen Futures, and Black Power in Berlin* in December 2022. His funders include the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, the Fulbright Foundation, the German Academic Exchange Service, the German Research Foundation, the Mellon Foundation, the National Science Foundation, the School for Advanced Research, and the Wenner-Gren Foundation.
FILM SCREENING followed by Q&A

Filming the Future from Berlin: Noncitizen Perspectives

With participants from Canada, the UK, the US, and over 15 refugees from Syria, we spent over a month in 2015, during the so-called “Summer of Migration,” making short Films about pity, solidarity, flight, depression, gentrification, and the supposed impossibility of simultaneously being an artist and a refugee. The films are from the first of the Berlin episodes from the Filming Future Cities series initiated in 2014 in Detroit, and in 2015 in Berlin. Several of these films were relevant to and analyzed in Blackness as a Universal Claim.
In this bold and provocative book, Damani J. Partridge examines the possibilities and limits of a universalized Black politics. Young people in Germany of Turkish, Arab, and African descent use claims of Blackness to hold states and other institutions accountable for their everyday struggle. Partridge tracks how these youth invoke the expressions of Black Power, acting out the medal-podium salute from the 1968 Olympics, proclaiming "I am Malcolm X," expressing mutual struggle with Muhammad Ali and Spike Lee, and standing with raised and clenched fists next to Angela Davis. Partridge also documents the demands by public-school teachers, federal-program leaders, and politicians that young immigrants account for the global persistence of anti-Semitism as part of the German state's commitment to antigenocidal education. He uses these stories to interrogate the relationships among European Enlightenment, Holocaust memory, and Black futures, showing how noncitizens work to reshape their everyday lives.

In doing so, he demonstrates how the concept of Blackness energizes, inspires, and makes possible participation beyond national belonging for immigrants, refugees, Black people, and other People of Color.
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The Program of German and Scandinavian Studies, the Departments of Languages, Literatures and Cultures, History, and Anthropology, the W.E.B. Du Bois Department of Afro-American-Studies and the Institute of Holocaust, Genocide, and Memory Studies at the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

The German Departments at Amherst College, Mount Holyoke College, and Smith College.

The Five College German Studies Faculty Seminar.

The Five College Lecture Fund and the Max Kade Foundation

All events are free and open to the public.