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## In the Know - A Quarterly Newsletter (F22)

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*happy 9th anniversary!*



FROM LORRAINE, KATIA, SARA, CECI & ANGELA

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## Welcome to Black Study in 2022

### A Message from the Directors

This year we celebrate the ninth anniversary of the Black Studies Project, and the first year of the Black Diaspora and African American Studies (BDAAS) major at UCSD. These breakthroughs are a testament to the persistence, vision, and work of the students, faculty, and staff who have gone before us, and many of you here with us now. BSP welcomes you to share in a year of continued funding opportunities for Black Studies scholarship, social events centered on creativity and wellness, and engaging, collaborative programming. Check out the events and opportunities below!

*BSP provides a platform for supporting meaningful work in Black Studies among faculty, graduate and undergraduate students from across the UCSD campus, while building sustainable and mutually beneficial relationships with broader San Diego and UC communities.*

Sara Johnson, Faculty Co-Director

Angela Booker, Faculty Co-Director

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## Upcoming Events

October 2022

**OCT 18** *Jazz, journey & cosmology collide in **The Book of Myles**. Had they ever been asunder?*



BLACK STUDIES PROJECT

# GRADUATE SEMINAR MEETING

Tuesday, October 18, 2022  
12:30-2 PM

Public Engagement Building (PEB) 201  
+ Zoom



*Featuring a  
Work-in-progress  
Research Presentation by*

**Matt Ford**  
**MFA, Literature**

*BSP Research & Travel Grantee*

MATT FORD's MFA thesis, *The Book of Myles*, is an autofiction novella that follows Myles Crescendo (a.k.a. MC), a young, Black jazz musician (and Gemini) sojourning through the valley of death as they learn to stay connected with their late father using the power of song. As they play their father's records, Myles's spirit takes a ride—as their physical body remains in the present—on the vibrational frequencies of Black music through time and space to notable moments of African Diasporic liberation, from the dawn of Christianity to early Trans-Atlantic slavery, from the Harlem Renaissance to the Civil Rights Movement, and back to today. On their journey, Myles experiences their ancestors' struggles, meets their twin flame, and arranges a composition that may dislodge innumerable lost Black souls caught in the cracks and crevices of the universe.

**LUNCH  
PROVIDED  
IN PERSON!**



Following the presentation, other attendees will have the opportunity to share, discuss, and receive feedback on their own works-in-progress. Virtual engagement will be enabled.

[RSVP for OCT 18 here](#)

[Zoom Access for OCT 18 here](#)

**OCT 19** *Artist & filmmaker Nicole Miller introduces UCSD to Michael in Black.*



BLACK STUDIES PROJECT PRESENTS...

# MICHAEL IN BLACK

**A TALK BY  
NICOLE  
MILLER**

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2022  
12:30-2 P.M.  
PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT BUILDING  
(PEB) 721



BSP  
FACULTY  
FELLOW

This first monograph on artist and filmmaker Nicole Miller focuses on a single sculpture by the artist: *Michael in Black* (2018). This book brings together a cohort of writers and other artists through newly commissioned texts and works for the page, as well as republished texts and images that exist as their own whole. Some texts hinge on the sculpture, others are tangents. The book's texts and images build on each other, functioning as a prism for the publication's subject.

*Michael in Black* (2018) is a bronze cast of Michael Jackson's kneeling figure, poured from a mold made directly from his body around 1986. This talismanic object comprises myriad aspects of celebrity and image: the objecthood of the performer, the potency and perversity of objects, death, and grief.

This sculpture is an outlier in Miller's work, though it excavates some concerns she has similarly articulated in moving image: her



Similarly articulated in moving image. Her recurring interest in the self-performance of her film subjects; the dehumanizing effects of the mass gaze; the celebrity as a host object for contemporary projections; the tactility of film, the sculptural qualities of editing; and the potential for self storytelling to reconstitute an individual's wholeness.

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[RSVP for OCT 19 here](#)

[Zoom Access for OCT 19 here](#)

**OCT 20** Professor Matthew Vernon explores "Blackness, visibility, materiality and necropolitics" through Jacob-Jenkin's 2017 play *Everybody*.



# UNEXCEPTIONAL BLACKNESS AND "BLIND MATTER": VISUALITY, TEMPORALITY, AND RACE



**MATTHEW VERNON (UC DAVIS)**  
**OCTOBER 20TH, 4-5:30 PM**  
**DE CERTEAU ROOM, LITERATURE**  
**(355 ARTS & HUMANITIES BUILDING)**

This talk will consider Branden Jacobs-Jenkins's play, *Everybody*, which adapts the fifteenth-century play *Everyman*. *Everyman* is a particularly pointed choice for Jacobs-Jenkins to adapt because of its presentation of a Black character unexpectedly confronted by death, a move that cannot help but conjure up familiar ideas around "Black Lives Matter," and the spectre of death that shadows that phrase. At the same time, in the context of *Everybody*, Jacobs-Jenkins presses the metaphysical boundaries of what "matter" can mean and how one might continue to expand the political potency of the phrase "Black Lives Matter." In reading between these plays, I will interrogate the relationships among Blackness, visibility, materiality, and necropolitics. Central to this discussion will be an argument about reading race "counterfactually," that is how we read against the habits of representation that delimit the possibilities for recognizing Black lives.

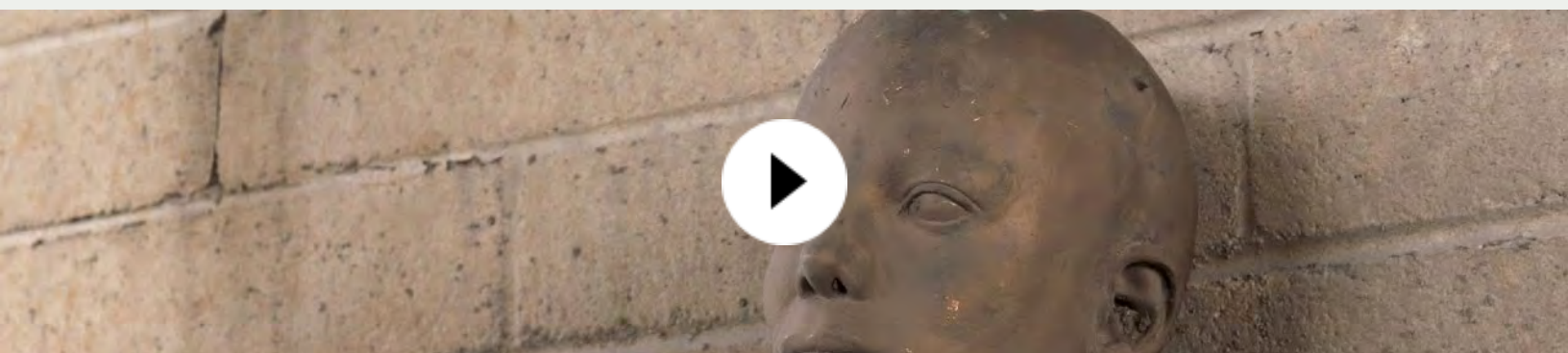
**MATTHEW VERNON** is Associate Professor of English at UC Davis, where he works on medieval literature, travel narratives, migration, film, and comic books. He is the author of *The Black Middle Ages: Race and the Construction of the Middle Ages*.

## SPONSORED BY:



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Watch Professor Nicole Miller discuss her artistic practice with Arizona Public Media.



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**November 2022**

**NOV 15** *India expounds on her research about the role of spiritual beliefs and practice in the radical politics of queer activist women of color.* (rsvp below)



BLACK STUDIES PROJECT

# GRADUATE SEMINAR MEETING

Tuesday, November 15, 2022  
12:30-2 PM

Public Engagement Building (PEB) 201



*Featuring a  
Work-in-Progress  
Research Presentation by*

**India Pierce**  
**PhD, Ethnic Studies**

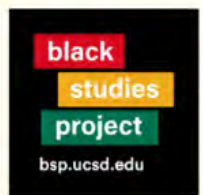
*BSP Dissertation Fellow*

INDIA PIERCE's doctoral research explores the experiences of queer women of color activists who have found in their spiritual beliefs a profound sense of connection to the world around them that is inseparable from their political endeavors and new world-making efforts. Situating the spiritual as indispensable to the political, Pierce's research asks, what possibilities are opened when QWOC move beyond the boundaries of religious doctrine to find a spiritual practice that allows them to deepen their freedom-seeking efforts? By arguing that freedom is a critical speculative space, Pierce reveals how narrow understandings of freedom foreclose upon other experiences of freedom for people of color—ultimately, making the point that queer spiritual activism blurs the lines between the sacred and secular, revealing that the divine is anywhere the fight is.

**Following the presentation, other attendees will have the opportunity to share, discuss, and receive feedback on their own works-in-progress.**

If you plan to attend in person, [please RSVP here](#) by Thursday, November 10, 2022 at 5 p.m. to arrange for food orders.  
[Click here](#) for virtual engagement.

**LUNCH  
PROVIDED  
IN PERSON!**



[RSVP for NOV 15 here](#)

[Zoom Access for NOV 15 here](#)

**December 2022**



## **The Room Where It Happens: aka Behind the Scenes with Academic Personnel File Development**

*A part of the BSP Hidden Curriculum Series*

*Discussion*

**Tuesday, Dec 6, 2:30PM - 3:30PM**

**Public Engagement Bldg. Rm 721 + Zoom**

Have you ever wished that you had learned a piece of handy information earlier in your career? This Quarter's invited guest, former University Committee on Academic Personnel (U/CAP) member, Professor Marisa Abrajano, will share crucial insight on strategies to building a successful academic file. Light refreshments will be served. **RSVP by Nov 29**

[RSVP for DEC 6 here](#)

[Zoom Access for DEC 6 here](#)



**BSP Faculty Sunset Happy Hour**  
**Fall Edition**  
*Rest & Relaxation*

**Tuesday, Dec 6, 4:00PM - 6:00PM**  
**Public Engagement Bldg. 721**



(Outside Terrace)

Eat, drink, and be merry, or at least allow yourself a sigh of accomplishment as the sun sets over the Pacific. Join the Black Studies Faculty community in celebrating the end of the Quarter! **RSVP by Nov 4**

[RSVP for DEC 6 here](#)

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## **Like Minds** **Affinity Events Around Campus**

UC SAN DIEGO COUNSELING AND  
PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES PRESENTS:

# BLACK GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL STUDENTS FORUM

This a weekly drop-in forum for Black Graduate and Professional Students to foster kinship and receive support through community conversations.

This meeting is not professional counseling. If you would like professional counseling or mental health treatment, please call CAPS central office at (858) 534 -3755 to arrange an appointment.

**Facilitated by Haile Wright, LCSW**



**BLACK GRADUATE EXPERIENCE-LIVING LEARNING COMMUNITY LOUNGE**

Graduate Housing, Capa Building, Nuevo East (2nd Floor)



from 3:30 pm - 4:30 pm

Tuesdays: Sep 27, Oct 11 , Oct 25, Nov 8 and Nov 29



THE UNDERGRADUATE COLLEGES PRESENT

# BLACKTRONIKA

## WHERE I STAND FESTIVAL

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 29  
FROM NOON TO 7 PM  
EPSTEIN FAMILY AMPHITHEATER  
FREE, RSVP REQUIRED

## FEATURING

IRREVERSIBLE ENTANGLEMENTS

XENIA RUBINOS

5HZ

GEORGIA ANN MULDROW

CHIMURENGA RENAISSANCE

TYSHAWN SOREY AND KING BRITT

Blacktronika : Where I Stand Festival brings together six innovative musical groups to create a full day of sonic cultural expression. The liberation-oriented free jazz of Irreversible Entanglements, Caribbean-influenced multi-instrumentalism of Xenia Rubinos, the Grammy-nominated cosmic funk from Georgia Ann Muldrow to the Zimbabwean hip-hop of Chimurenga Renaissance, electro-acoustic time travelers Tyshawn Sorey and King Britt and UC San Diego's debut of multicultural supergroup 5hz.

*Freedom music for your mind body and soul.*

Blacktronika is a UC San Diego Music course created by Prof. King Britt that honors the innovators



Blacktronika is a UC San Diego Music course created by Prof. King Britt, that honors the innovators of color who have contributed to the global advancement of electronic music.



MORE INFO & TICKETS AT  
AMPHITHEATER.UCSD.EDU



## BSP Funding Opportunities

Check out and spread out the word about BSP residency and funding opportunities opening up for application this Fall Quarter. Calls and application requirements will be advertised through the BSP list serve and will be posted at [bsp.ucsd.edu](https://bsp.ucsd.edu).

### (Ongoing) BSP Faculty Research Grants

BSP provides ongoing faculty research support in the amount of small grants of up to \$4000. Awards support projects undertaken during the current academic year (2022-2023) or the next one (2023-2024). Proposals should support work distinct from other grant-supported aspects of an applicant's research. [Read More](#)

### (Ongoing) Funds for Co-sponsorships

BSP provides small grants (from \$150-\$500) throughout the year to co-sponsor events on campus. Want to bring a speaker? Host an event? These grants run throughout the year while funding is available, and support activities that correspond with BSP's mission. Please direct any inquiries to [bsp@ucsd.edu](mailto:bsp@ucsd.edu). Please include "Co-sponsorship grant request" in the subject line. [Read More](#)

### (Announcement soon) The Dayo Gore 2023-2024 BSP Postdoctoral Fellowship

During this time of social unrest, state-sanctioned and vigilante-led violence, health and education inequality, and emergent forms of data-driven and algorithmic bias, Black Studies scholarship remains vitally important. BSP focuses on sustaining faculty and student intellectual life at UCSD, while building active relationships with local organizers, artists, and community groups.

The 2023-24 Dayo Gore BSP Postdoctoral Fellowship will invite applications from emerging scholars addressing research areas that may include fields and disciplines in the Arts and Humanities, Social Sciences, or STEM fields with a focus in Black Studies and/or Black communities in the African Diaspora. [Read More](#)

## Community Spotlight



BSP Faculty Co-Director Angela Booker delivers her 2022 New Student Welcome Convocation address on RIMAC Field. Future UCSD graduates were witness to a timely message that emphasized the importance of prioritizing one's well being and mental health throughout the course of one's college experience. Photo by Erik Jepsen/University Communications

**BSP celebrates and congratulates** all of the faculty, students, researchers, activists and artists who advanced incredible work in Black Studies with the support of BSP funding opportunities. Our special thanks to former **BSP Faculty Director Jessica Graham**, the **School of Social Sciences Dean's Office for the Social Impact Scholars Program**, and others for including BSP in the student recruitment process for Summer 2022 Black Futures Lab (BFL) interns.

### BSP 2022 Faculty Research Grant Awardees

Elizabeth (Libby) Butler.....*Black Diaspora & African American Studies*

Zeinabu Davis.....*Dept. of Communication*

Nicole Miller.....*Dept. of Visual Arts*

Imani Munyaka.....*Dept. of Computer Science & Engineering*

### BSP 2022 Graduate Student Research & Travel Grant Awardees

kelechi agwuncha.....*Dept. of Visual Arts, in Riccione, Italy*

Maya Beck.....*Dept. of Literature, in Virginia, U.S.*

Matt Ford.....*Dept. of Literature, in southern France*

alexis hithe.....*Dept. of Visual Arts, U.S. South*



Rochelle McFee.....*Dept. of Ethnic Studies, in Kingston, Jamaica*

Naomi Nadreau.....*Dept. of Visual Arts, in New Orleans, U.S.*

Amir Saadiq.....*Dept. of Visual Arts, U.S. South*

Hande Sever.....*Dept. of Visual Arts, in Istanbul, Turkey*

Chanell Stone.....*Dept. of Visual Arts, in Louisiana, U.S.*

Kelsey Wardlaw.....*Latin American Studies, in Havana, Cuba*

### BSP 2022-2023 Faculty Fellowship Awardees

A.B. Boateng.....*Dept. of Communication*

Nicole Miller.....*Dept. of Visual Arts*

Kelema Moses.....*Dept. of Urban Studies & Planning*

### BSP 2022-2023 Pre-Doctoral Fellowship Awardee

Joy Miller.....*Dept. of History*

### BSP 2022-2023 Dissertation Fellowship Awardees

India Pierce.....*Dept. of Ethnic Studies*

Marina Vlahakis.....*Dept. of Literature*

Alicia Wright.....*Dept. of Anthropology*

### BFL 2022 Inaugural Interns

*funded by the School of Social Sciences & the Black Futures Lab (BFL)*

Melanie West.....*Dept. of Ethnic Studies*

Adrianna Blackshire.....*Dept. of Political Science*

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## BSP Community *On the page & on the road*

### Publications

**Professor LaGina Gause** (Dept. of Political Science) explores protest & political representation in her February 2022 publication with Cambridge University Press

[The Advantage of Disadvantage: Costly Protest and Political Representation for Marginalized Groups.](#)

**Professor Nicole Miller** (Dept. of Visual Arts) recent publication in June 2022 is a monograph born of her sculptural work of the same name [Michael in Black](#) (co-published by CARA and Public Fiction).

**Hande Sever's** (PhD candidate, Dept. of Visual Arts) August 2022 article [In Dialogue with Nails: Kuzgun Acar's \*Elegy to a Modern Man\*](#) examines the artistic intervention and implications of Ethiopian-Turkish sculptor and political activist Kuzgun Acar's work in the journal *World Art*.

## Art Exhibits

Check out visual artist **Professor Paul Mpagi Sepuya** current exhibition *144 Powers* [online](#) at the Alice Austen House, a New York based photographic museum.

San Diego based artist **Evan Tyler Scoggins** [discussed](#) their textile practice and inspiration with the San Diego Tribune. Scoggins held a residency with BSP support at [Art Produce](#) to exhibit his work this past summer.

## Awards in the Field

Professor **A.B. Boateng** (Dept. of Communication) receives recognition for her service as a mentor with the [Undergraduate Research Hub 2022 Outstanding Mentor Award](#).

Firelight Media announces filmmaker and Professor **Zeinabu Davis** (Dept. of Communication) as a [Spark Fund winner](#), awarded to support the completion of her Sojourner hybrid documentary project.

## Researchers on the road



Amir Saadiq *in the U.S. South*.  
Visual Arts/Photography, BSP 2022 Grant Awardee



See more of Amir Saadiq's work at [asaadiq.com](https://asaadiq.com)

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Maya Beck *kayaking in Lake Drummond of the Great Dismal Swamp, Virginia.*  
Literature, BSP 2022 Grant Awardee



Kelsey Wardlaw, *in Havana, Cuba (2022) Cinemateca de Cuba.*  
Latin American Studies, BSP 2022 Grant Awardee





Hande Sever, *in Istanbul, Turkey* (2022) Kuzgun Acar's work *Kuşlar* on the facade of Istanbul Textile Traders' Market. Photographed by Hande Sever  
Visual Arts, BSP 2022 Grant Awardee

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## Contact Us!

If you have any inquiries about BSP, or would like to be added to our listserv for more event and opportunity notifications, please email [bsp@ucsd.edu](mailto:bsp@ucsd.edu)

We are located on the Second Floor of the Public Engagement Building (PEB). PEB is located across from the Arts & Humanities Building & Plant Power Fast Food.





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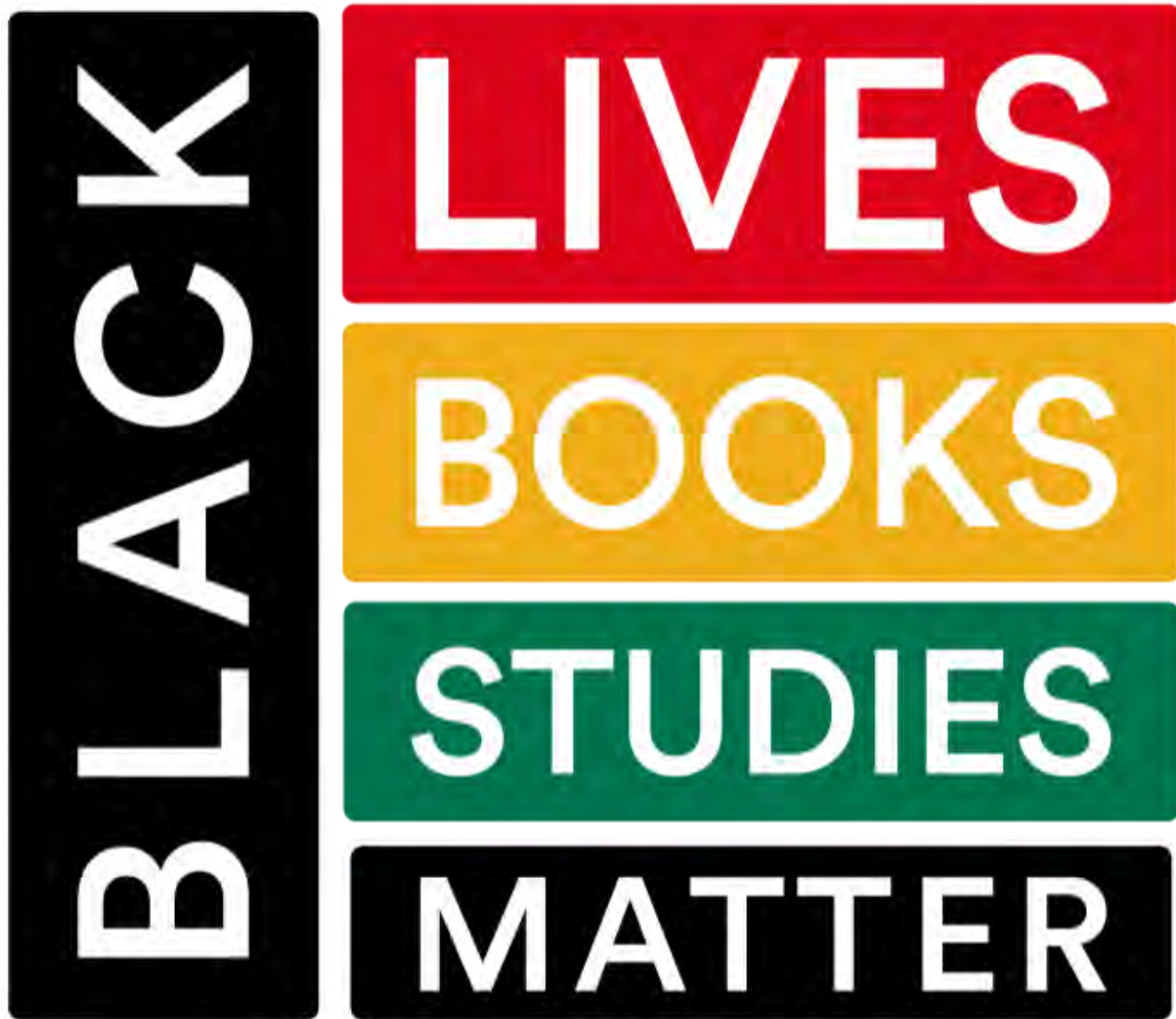
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