CIARS in Conversation Haitian Migration and the Necropolitics of Exclusion

Abstract: Immigration is a Black issue. Black immigrants worldwide are subjected to disproportionate violence and mistreatment. U.S. border officials and the Mexican National Guard continue to abuse, ostracize, and chastise Haitian migrants. The Haitian migrant crisis pushes us to re-examine the longstanding immigration policies, practices, and laws in Canada and the U.S. These policies and practices have worked in the service of White supremacy, impacting Black migrants the most. While acknowledging the ways that the Haitian migrant crisis is used as a political means to continue Haitian dehumanization, we explore how communities can adopt a stance of refusal to assert collective autonomy.

Key discussion questions (responded to throughout the webinar)

- From your own understanding and interpretation of global oppression, how would you explain the correlation between the global perception of Haiti and its cultures/politics/socioeconomic status and the dehumanization of Haitian people? How have they been created and how do they influence exclusion politics?
- Colonization and the historical traumas associated are well documented: How do you think America, Canada, and France are complicit in creating and maintaining the political and economic conditions in Haiti?
- How does the project of Latinidad perpetuate anti-Blackness in the migrant justice movement?
- How does deeply rooted anti-Blackness manifest in the experiences of Haitian migrants as they move through the country?
- What are the biggest challenges that you see being faced within the context of migrant justice in Mexico?
- How can individuals adopt a politics of refusal when confronted with systemic dehumanization? In what ways have the arts been a vehicle for resistance?

Resources:
Webinar recording
A list of organizations, artists, and educators mentioned throughout the webinar