

Wayne Craven Lecture

Graduate Student Lecture Series

Wednesday, Nov. 18, 1:00 p.m. | Zoom

“Death in Tivoli”: Christopher ‘Dudus’ Coke, Fugitive Sociality, and the Body of Photographic Evidence

On May 24, 2010, soldiers and police officers entered the West Kingston community of Tivoli Gardens in search of Christopher “Dudus” Coke, who became a fugitive after the United States sought his extradition. After almost four days, at the end of this operation Coke remained at large, but at least 69 civilians and 3 members of the security forces lay dead and with two others disappeared. Examining photographs and video footage and what remains fugitive in these sources, **Dr. Krista Thompson** (Northwestern University) speculates on why the hunt for a single fugitive led to the detainment, containment and killing of so many.

The presentation is part of a larger book project, which explores how fugitives and the photographic representations surrounding them in Jamaica informed a fugitive sociality, opening up social, political and representational possibilities for those seeking to reimagine the existing parameters of the colonial and postcolonial state.

Dr. Krista Thompson, Mary Jane Crowe Professor in Art History at Northwestern University, researches and teaches modern and contemporary art and visual culture of the Africa diaspora and the Caribbean, with an emphasis on photography. She is the author of *An Eye for the Tropics* (2006), *Developing Blackness* (2008) and *Shine: The Visual Economy of Light in African Diasporic Aesthetic Practice* (2015), and recipient of the Charles Rufus Morey Award for distinguished books in the history of art from the College Art Association (2016) and the Gordon K. and Sybil Lewis Award for theoretical and methodological contributions to Caribbean Studies from the Caribbean Studies Association (2016). Thompson is currently working on *Black Light*, a manuscript about Tom Lloyd, electronic light and archival recovery in African American art and *The Evidence of Things Not Photographed* (forthcoming), a book that examines notions of photographic absence, fugitivity and disappearance in colonial and postcolonial Jamaica.



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