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Controlling Images, Controlling Intentions

Alisa examines reasons and the politics of intention through an analysis of structural racism. I discuss two key black feminist critiques of reason — Patricia Hill Collins' discussion of "controlling images" (2000) and Michelle Cliff's concept of the "mythic mind" (1982) — to propose "controlling intentions" as a framework to theorize how structural racism produces fictive intentions used to rationalize the criminal punishment of survival and justify that outcome as common sense. As an example, I analyze how Marissa Alexander's intentions and intentional actions were replaced by controlling intentions in her Stand Your Ground hearing to illustrate how reason provides a form through which racial/gendered violence (among other forms of domination) is naturalized as common and unexceptional.

TIME

Monday, November 21, 2022
12:00PM-1:20PM

ZOOM DETAILS

Meeting ID: 918 0176 3867
Passcode: 613233