

The Bill and Carol Fox Center for Humanistic Inquiry
Emory University

2023-2024 Interdisciplinary Research Seminar (CHIIRS)



Incalculable Blackness: Mathematics and Existence

Moderator: Calvin Warren, Associate Professor
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Continental Philosophy is experiencing a “mathematical turn” in its attempt to formalize Being, avoid the pitfalls of phenomenology/correlationism, and rupture knowledge programs. This “turn”, however, neglects antiblackness and reproduces metaphysical violence—since the foundations of mathematics secure oppressive enumeration (such as algorithms) and evacuate blackness from Being itself (such as Hegel’s “bad infinity”). These seminars provide a philosophical overview of contemporary “philosophy of mathematics” and its relation to blackness. This investigation, however, is experimental, as a *black* philosophy of mathematics is undeveloped in academia. Thus, we will grapple with philosophical infinity and blackness (via Hegel’s calculus); Number theory (via Frege, Badiou, and Black feminism); and Chance/Probability (via W.E.B. Du Bois and Quentin Meillassoux).

This seminar will meet via Zoom on the following Fridays: April 19th & 26th, and May 3rd from 3pm-5pm. For more information, please contact Calvin Warren at clwarr2@emory.edu.

<https://emory.zoom.us/j/4323145100>

We are grateful to The National Endowment for the Humanities for its support of this program. Any views, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in these seminars do not necessarily reflect those of the National Endowment for the Humanities.