Black Women, State Violence, and the Logic of the Narrative of 'Mothers of the Movement’

February 16, 2022, 6pm
Dr. Shaeeda Mensah
Assistant Professor of Philosophy
McDaniel College

In this paper I will critically examine the emerging narrative of Black women as the 'Mothers of the Movement.' In doing so, I will argue that this narrative situates Black women as the indirect targets of state violence, and I will consider the implications of the tendency to fail to see Black women as directly targeted and impacted by state violence. Throughout the paper, I will draw on the distinct ways in which Black men and women's experiences with state violence have emerged in ways that often overlook their histories as shared experiences of racial injustice.

White Philosophers and the White Problem

March 16, 2022, 6pm
Dr. T Storm Heter
Professor of Philosophy
East Stroudsburg University

In this talk I will introduce my audience to what philosophers of existence call “The White Problem.” The White Problem is an intellectual framework that questions the moral, political, and intellectual value of being-White. Beginning with W.E.B. DuBois’s view that whiteness is a form of “ownership of the earth,” I will explain what philosophers of existence (existentialists) have to offer to the critical study of whiteness. I will address why it is important for White-identifying philosophers to join the conversations about the value of whiteness which were pioneered by non-White thinkers.

In the Mix with Feminist Theory and Racial Justice, Making Self and Home

April 6, 2022, 6pm
Dr. Cori Wong
Positive Philosophy Consulting, LLC

Beyond binaries and full of ambiguity, locating oneself within a mixed-race identity can be confounding, especially if one is disconnected from the cultures of their ancestors while simultaneously committed to dismantling white supremacy. This talk presents a narrative of personal sense-making about being half-Asian, half-white, growing up in whiteness as a fourth generation American with Chinese heritage in the US, and how theory can provide developmental means for self, home, and liberation to anyone who assumes their own path for racial justice.