

CENTRE FOR INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES IN SOCIETY AND CULTURE AFRICAN STUDIES WORKING GROUP

PANICS OVER PLASTICS

Queer Objects, Moral Pollution, and the Materialities of Belonging in Kenya

George Paul Meiu Harvard University

Friday, 26 October 3 - 4:30 p.m. Room H-1120

Henry F. Hall Building, 1455 De Maisonneuve Blvd. W.

Lecture Details

In recent years, in Kenya, popular claims that homosexuality is a "foreign import"—and therefore, "un-African"—have coincided with similar statements about plastic as a substance. On social media, a Kenyan man claimed that "gayism [looks] like a fatal plastic import from the West;" and state efforts to ban plastics have borrowed from the sentiments and language of an anti-homosexuality rhetoric. In order to better understand the role of sexuality to belonging and citizenship, this paper proposes a detour through the meanings and textures of plastic.

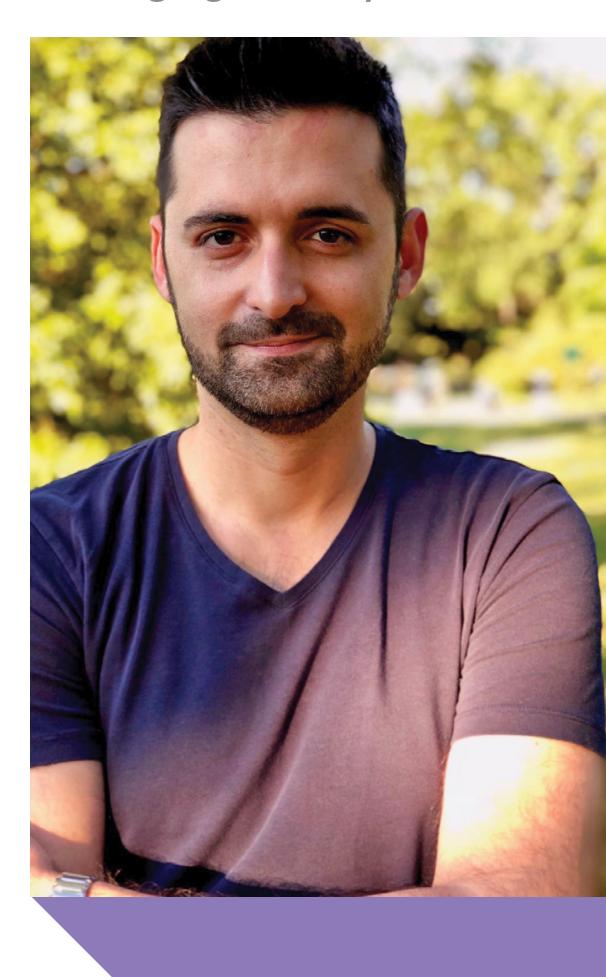
Meiu will speak of the materialities of belonging to show how plastic anchors belonging and citizenship in the idioms of substance.

George Paul Meiu is John and Ruth Hazel Associate Professor of Social Sciences in the Department of Anthropology and the Department of African and African American Studies at Harvard University. He is author of Ethno-erotic Economies: Sexuality, Money, and Belonging in Kenya (University of Chicago Press, 2017). He also published in the American Ethnologist, Ethnos, Anthropology Today, the Canadian Journal of African Studies, and in edited volumes on tourism, sexuality, and the history of anthropology.

ADMISSION IS FREE. ALL ARE WELCOME.

Please contact juliesoleil.archambault@concordia.ca for further details.

CISSC Happening concordia.ca/artsci/cissc



Co-sponsors: Department of Sociology and Anthropology Fall Speaker Series

