

[Harry Elam, Jr.](#) and [Michele Elam](#), Stanford University

“The Play of Race”

“Our keynote will examine four distinct “scenes” that illustrate the 21st century play of race. Invoking the first black president as representative of the performative making and unmaking of race, Act I: “Obama on the Run” examines pre-election imaging of Obama’s run for the presidency. Act II: “Obama at the Theatre” analyzes his attendance as President at an August Wilson play in 2009. Act III: “Obama Goes Global,” considers international representations of Obama. Act IV: “Obama Drinks Beer” takes the President’s “Beer Summit” (helping make nice between black academic and white police officer) as an occasion to explore intra- and inter-racial dynamics that extend to this 2012 campaign.

[Xavier Giró Martí](#), Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (UAB)

“Neocolonialism in the discourse of media: nationalism and migrations”

Nationalism, in cognitive terms, could be considered not as an ideology, but just as a possible ideological trait of certain political projects. It consists in claiming political sovereignty for what nationalists identify as their nation. Not surprisingly, it is embraced by most of the hegemonic parties and mainstream media in the West. The way immigration and corresponding ethnic minorities and their political and civil rights are dealt with in the media is influenced by the specific choices of nationalists parties, but not essentially by the ideological core of nationalism. Actually, different forms of neocolonialism in the discourse have been detected. A concepts clarification will be proposed and illustrated with media examples.

[Ella Shohat](#) and [Robert Stam](#), New York University

“Race in Translation: Culture Wars around the Postcolonial Atlantic”

While the term “culture wars” often designates the heated arguments in the English-speaking world spiraling around race, the canon, and affirmative action, in fact these discussions have raged in diverse sites and languages. *Race in Translation* charts the transatlantic traffic of the debates within and between three zones-- the U.S., France, and Brazil. Stam and Shohat will trace the literal and figurative translation of these multidirectional intellectual debates, seen most recently in the emergence of postcolonial studies in France, and whiteness studies in Brazil.