

## European Association of American Studies Transatlantic Grant 2024 Report

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Host Institution: Brown University, Centre for the Study of Race and Ethnicity in America (Providence, USA)

Thanks to the generous support of the European Association of American Studies Transatlantic Grant, I was able to complete this fall a research fellowship at Brown's University's Centre for the Study of Race and Ethnicity in America (Oct 14-Nov 14, 2024). I had aimed for this research residency to advance the theoretical framework of my PhD's final chapter. It turned out to be a much deeper transformative work experience and training, confronted to the knowledge, expertise, and dedicated mentorship of the scholars guiding this exchange.

Integrated to the Centre for the Study of Race and Ethnicity in America (CSREA), I benefitted from the unparalleled mentorship of its academic and scholarly team. I was able to witness the daily organization of a pioneering research centre and take part to the events it ran during this period, such as book talks and public screenings, art exhibitions, and work in progress lunches and seminars. I benefitted from a quiet office space, as well as campus access to library resources, particularly the John Hay Library's African American literature Harris collection, which holds crucial resources by critics Hortense Spillers and Cheryl A. Wall unavailable elsewhere.

This setting fostered a uniquely inspiring environment where I was able to pursue research and writing. I benefitted from the expertise of scholars and practitioners from various departments who worked parallel to the centre and therefore strongly supplemented the expertise of my home institution's supervisory team. Being thus confronted to a variety of experiences and perspectives uniquely challenged and

greatly strengthened my research work. Each conversation, lecture, and discussion participated to the construction of a rich exchange.

During this research visit, I was supervised by Prof. Andre C. Willis, philosopher and Religious Studies scholar. We met twice a week to discuss my research, pieces of writing, and suggested readings. These meetings were opportunities to reflect on and discuss complete chapter drafts ahead of the completion of my thesis as I approach the final year of my PhD. Offering critical feedback, and challenges, these were essential moments for deep and meaningful reflection. This was a research-oriented moment as much as a profoundly humane encounter, uniquely nourishing this academic work.

I attended Prof. Willis' weekly seminar on theological criticism, as well as the School of Religious Studies' colloquia, and met with Prof. Tricia Rose, reviewing the radical grounded engagements of scholarly work beyond academia. These experiences and encounters enriched the interdisciplinary focus of my research and consolidated specific aspects of my thesis.

I am deeply thankful to the European Association for their financial support which greatly facilitated the organisation of this exchange. This was an entirely privileged time for research, writing, and reflection generously guided by true mentorship. These collaborations have centrally contributed to the completion of my doctorate, and laid robust foundations for postdoctoral perspectives.