QUESTION:
How to locate the Ethnic Studies project? What sort of un-formulated questions and possible strategies of answering would constitute its particular modes of inquiry? The pieces discussed in this seminar challenge basic presuppositions informing modern constructions of the social (local, national, regional global) by excavating the grounds upon which modern projects and their discontents stand. This is not an exegetical exercise, though. Instead, we will tease these onto-epistemological fractures where the ghost of the racial (postcolonial/gender-sexual/economic) subaltern subject can be spotted.

TASK:
Our task in this seminar is to advance provisory formulations of few questions: What sort of critical interrogations of (im)possible strategies of power/knowledge this appearance inaugurates? Do these specters demarcate an epistemological corner from which Ethnic Studies can intervene as a critical interrogation of (post)modern ontological and epistemological projects? How?

ITINERARY:

01/06 Introduction

Battlegrounds
01/13 Jane Flax, Thinking Fragments
01/20 Joan Scott, Gender and the politics of history
01/27 Gayatri Spivak, A Critique of Postcolonial Reason

Hauntings
02/03 Oyèrónké Oyèwùmi, The Invention of Women
02/10 Ann Cheng, The Melancholy of Race
02/17 Laura Kang, Compositional Subjects
02/24 Laura Briggs, Reproducing Empire

Specters
03/03 Amy Tan, The Hundred secret senses & Alice Walker, Possessing the Secret of Joy
03/10 Closing

Evaluation
Weekly e-mail comments (1,500 words) & Participation 50%
Discussion mediation 50%

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