



# THE SEQUELAE OF BLACK LIFE: RETHINKING POLICE VIOLENCE IN BRAZIL

with **Dr. Christen Smith**, Associate Professor of African and African Diaspora Studies and Anthropology at the University of Texas, Austin

In March 2014, Claudia Ferreira was shot in the neck and back during a pacification operation in neighborhood in Rio de Janeiro. After police placed her in the back of the trunk, the police sped off, away from the neighborhood with the trunk left open. and her body dragged more than 250 meters along the streets. Almost exactly four years to the day later, on the night of March 14th, Rio de Janeiro Councilwoman Marielle Franco was assassinated by former police officers while leaving an event promoting Black women's empowerment. Direct assault at the hands of the state is an everyday reality in Black women's lives in Brazil. Yet, there remains a need to unpack the gendered dimensions of this state violence, and understand the state's unique and deadly relationship to Black women in particular. This conversation will explore antiblack state violence in Brazil, its specifically gendered and inter-generational dimensions and the Black community's ongoing resistance to this violence.



**Dr. Christen Smith** is Associate Professor of African and African Diaspora Studies and Anthropology at the University of Texas, Austin. Her research focuses on Blackness, performance, racial formation, violence, Black women and transnational struggle, Black liberation and resistance in the Americas. Her book, *Afro-Paradise: Blackness, Violence and Performance in Brazil* uses the lens of performance to examine the immediate and long-term impact of police violence on the Black population of Salvador, Bahia, Brazil and the grassroots movement to denounce and end this violence. Her more recent, comparative work examines the lingering, deadly impact of police violence on black women in Brazil and the U.S.

Friday, October 2nd | 1:00 - 2:00pm

**Zoom link:** <https://arizona.zoom.us/j/97671662300>