

University of Oregon – Department of Philosophy

Colloquium Series

“Bergson, Merleau-Ponty, and the Power of Hesitation: Interrupting Racializing Habits of Perception”



Dr. Alia Al-Saji
Associate Professor of Philosophy, McGill University

Alia Al-Saji's work engages 20th century phenomenology and French philosophy, on the one hand, and critical race and feminist theories, on the other. She thus explores questions of embodiment, memory and intersubjectivity as developed in the works of Henri Bergson and Maurice Merleau-Ponty. Furthermore, she develops a phenomenology of what has been called “cultural racism” by offering a feminist analysis of representations of Muslim women in contemporary Western contexts.

Alia Al-Saji will be offering a regular colloquium talk on Thursday April 25 4pm (“Bergson, Merleau-Ponty, and the Power of Hesitation: Interrupting Racializing Habits of Perception,” 4/25, 4:00pm, Ford Alumni Center, Room 202). She will also be discussing her recent work on “The racialization of Muslim veils” within a workshop to be held on Friday April 26 at 11am in PLC 314 (contact Beata Stawarska at stawarsk@uoregon.edu to obtain copies of the readings). The Friday workshop will expand on the research presented in the regular colloquium talk. In the Thursday paper, she will be giving a phenomenological account of racializing perception and how it can be interrupted. The Friday workshop will involve her more specific work on racialization, cultural racism, and Muslim veiling.

For more information about this event please visit the Philosophy Department website.