

**Asian Studies Program Presents:**

## **Prismatic Blackness: An Ethnographic Excavation of Racial Configurations in Japan**

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What might Japan teach us about the Black experience writ large? Drawing on a selection of engagements with and analyses of Black bodies in the Land of the Rising sun, this presentation uses Japan as a socio-historical context to interrogate theories of race articulated in the West and to examine configurations of Blackness that cannot be reduced to a dichotomous relationship to Whiteness. Expanding Venesa Ribas' concept of "prismatic engagement," John Davis maps a set of competing constructions of Blackness that emerge at distinct temporal junctures, take form in various ethnographic settings, and circulate within multiple social spheres ranging from popular culture to political protest and everything in between. He will conclude by considering what the Black experience teaches us about Japan and the Asia Pacific.

**Free and open to the public**

**Details & Registration link:** <https://easc.osu.edu/spelman-mar2>

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This event is coordinated by the Asian Studies Program and made possible in part by a U.S. Department of Education Title VI grant to The Ohio State University East Asian Studies Center.