

RELIGIOUS STUDIES
CHAU MELLON TALK

SANCTUARY BEYOND THE CRIMINAL LINE: THE UNLAWFUL SALVATION OF BLACK MOTHERHOOD



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The 2021 Dorothy and Fred Chau Mellon Fellow, Rev. Dr. Nikia S. Robert, explores the criminalization of poor Black mothers' survival in the U.S. Carceral State. Specifically, Dr. Robert uses Dubosian thought, Black Feminism, and Womanist Theological Ethics to argue that there is a nebulous "criminal line," an urgent twenty-first-century problem that marks the contrasting realities between Black mothers' deviance and the putative innocence of their white counterparts. Punitive disparities are endemic to the U.S. Legal System through laws, policies, and regulations, as well as teachings and practices in churches that reproduce carceral logic. Ergo, this talk considers the role of socially justice-oriented and Black-serving churches to respond to the problem of the criminal line by catalyzing a faith-based abolitionist movement that prioritizes the social thriving of Black mothers and their communities beyond punishment and prisons.

Register here to attend via Zoom:

tinyurl.com/chaumellon

or scan



4:15 P.M.

MARCH 23

Pearsons Hall 101

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