

# Humanities Institute

February 17, 2016, 12:30 p.m. Luncheon Lecture

*featuring:*

***Fred Lee*** (*Political Science*)

## **“The Power of Judgment in U.S. Racial Empowerment Movements”**

This talk interprets U.S. racial power movements in light of Hannah Arendt’s understanding of judgment. Arendt’s notion that judgment appeals to a common sense of the world guides this exploration of how specific black, Asian, and Amerindian activists decided upon their affiliations, conflicts, and demands. Professor Lee will use the 1969-1971 Occupation of Alcatraz Island to exemplify the ways that the power of judgment participated in the constitution of 1960s-1970s racial power movement publics. What he contributes to historical sociological accounts of these new social movements is a political theoretical appreciation of the role of human faculties or “powers” in creating public spaces and popular sensibilities.



**Fred Lee** is an assistant professor of political science and Asian/Asian American Studies. His essays have appeared in *Political Research Quarterly*, *Theory & Event*, and *Critical Philosophy of Race* (forthcoming). His current book project, *The Racial Politics of the Extraordinary: Four Events in the Informal Constitution of the United States*, examines selected events that initiated new trajectories for indigenous, black, and Asian American politics. It expansively conceptualizes “the U.S. constitution” as an ongoing project of racial formation—but one punctuated by extraordinary moments of crisis and their (always partial) resolution.

***Humanities Institute*** - AUSTIN Building, Room 301. Space is limited.

Please reserve seating

by contacting [uchi@uconn.edu](mailto:uchi@uconn.edu) or 860.486.9057