

Visiting Scholars Seminar Series

Spring 2001

Black Social Thought



In the Early Twenty- First Century

Paul Gilroy



Aldon Morris



M. Jacqui Alexander

The theme for the inaugural year of the Sociology Department's new Visiting Scholars Seminar Series was "Black Social Thought in the Early Twenty-first Century: Politics, Culture and Social Change." This series brought three distinguished Black sociologists to the BC campus for several days of engagement with our graduate students and faculty. Invited scholars included Paul Gilroy (Yale University), Aldon Morris (Northwestern University) and M. Jacqui Alexander (Connecticut College). These scholars represent a glimpse at the diversity and richness of black social thought and its importance for a rethinking of analytic categories, received histories, and the organization of social power in a global context. Each scholar delivered a public lecture and conducted two intensive seminars on topics of his or her choosing. In addition to these formal events, each scholar was available for informal dialogue and exchange with members of the BC community. While sponsored by the Sociology Department, the series also attracted the attention of a large number of faculty and students from other departments, whose participation helped make this series a genuinely interdisciplinary event. While the public lectures were open to everyone, participation in the faculty/graduate student seminars was by reservation. Those attending the seminars were also provided with a short set of readings selected by the Visiting Scholars in preparation for discussion.