



Announcing the 2021 Frederick Douglass Institute Fellows at the University of Rochester

The University of Rochester's Frederick Douglass Institute of African & African American Studies (FDI) is proud to announce the 2021 Postdoctoral Fellows, **Mia Alafaireet** (University of Wisconsin-Madison) and **Ricardo Millhouse** (Arizona State University).



Mia Alafaireet is completing her PhD in the Department of English at University of Wisconsin-Madison. Her dissertation, *Transplanting Blackness: New Negro Botanicals and the Ecology of Black Health* reads the Harlem Renaissance through the lens of environmental health. Tracing intersections between representations of New Negro migrants as botanical transplants and racist medicalizations of the Great Migration, she argues that the Harlem Renaissance's botanical imagery refutes stereotypes of Black bodily inferiority and reframes health on ecological terms. Her research draws from African American Literature, Medical History, and Environmental Humanities.



Ricardo Millhouse is completing his PhD at Arizona State University in Gender Studies in the School of Social Transformation. His dissertation, *(Dis)Locating the Sensual: Black Queer Placemaking in Brooklyn, New York*, investigates the impact of gentrification on Black queer subject formations and Black queer public culture. Using ethnographic and archival methods, he links physical spatio-historical processes of extraction to the sensual geographic experiences that are emplaced in Black queer social spaces—to build a theoretical edifice he calls Black queer spatiality. His research draws from Urban Geography, Black Gender and Queer Studies, and Design Justice.

In light of the recent assault on black bodies, from Daniel Prude to Breonna Taylor, the FDI Postdoctoral Fellowship theme this year was *anti-blackness*. We are glad to welcome these two fine scholars to the Frederick Douglass Institute of African & African-American Studies, seeing their research's relevance to the theme and its importance to the broader field.

The FDI Postdoctoral Fellowship is a two-year opportunity, which is open to scholars in the humanities and social sciences. Fellows will participate in the intellectual life of the institute, pursue their own scholarship, and teach one course per year, in their area of specialization. Fellows will have the opportunity to present their work at the University's [Susan B. Anthony Institute for Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies](#), the [Humanities Center](#), and the FDI Work-in-Progress Seminar Series. All fellows receive office space in the institute, full access to the university's facilities, and opportunities to interact and collaborate with scholars relevant to their projects within and outside the university.

The FDI Postdoctoral Fellowship program has a history of phenomenal scholars, who are now making an indelible mark in the field of Black Studies. These two fellows, **Mia Alafaireet and Ricardo Millhouse**, join this legacy.