

Black Life--Schwarz-Sein

Thursday, March 9, 2017

4:10pm

Scheler Humanities Forum
Linderman Library, Room 200



Alexander G. Weheliye

Professor of African American Studies
Northwestern University

The talk pays particular attention to the complex ways gender and sexuality function in the barring of Black flesh from the category of the human-as-Man by investigating inhabitations of the flesh that bring to light the relational being-in-the-world of Black Life. That is, examples from literature and music that render the constitutive ungendered displacement of Black Life from origin and belonging habitable by staging the affectability of Black mattering as second sight.

Alexander Weheliye is professor of African American Studies at Northwestern University where he teaches Black literature and culture, critical theory, social technologies, and popular culture. He is the author of *Phonographies: Grooves in Sonic Afro-Modernity* (Duke UP, 2005) and *Habeas Viscus: Racializing Assemblages, Biopolitics, and Black Feminist Theories of the Human* (Duke UP, 2014). Currently, he is working on two projects. The first, *Feenin: R&B's Technologies of Humanity*, offers a critical history of the intimate relationship between R&B music and technology since the late 1970's. The second, *Black Life/Schwarz-Sein*, situates Blackness as an ungendered ontology of unbelonging.