

## [CRRS Distinguished Visiting Scholar: Ayanna Thompson](#) [Arizona State University](#)

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Type:

Lecture

Date:

March 9, 2021 to March 10, 2021

Location:

Ontario, Canada

Subject Fields:

Early Modern History and Period Studies, European History / Studies, Literature

**Ayanna Thompson** ([bio](#)) is a scholar of Shakespeare, race, and performance. She is the author of many books including *Blackface* and *Passing Strange: Shakespeare, Race, and Contemporary America*. As a Professor of English at Arizona State University, she directs the Arizona Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies, where she created RaceB4Race, an ongoing conference series and professional network community by and for scholars of color working on issues of race in premodern literature, history and culture.

### **Lecture Topic**

This talk will think through the ways that performing race, as opposed to being perceived as a racialized actor, are assessed and rewarded in acting, and it will draw connections from the early modern period to the nineteenth century to the twenty-first century. Using Christina Sharpe's concept of "wake work," this talk will "articulate a method of encountering a past that is not past." While the 17th century is not the same as the 21st century, that past is not past. The waves that rippled through early modern London theatres continue to roll through 21st-century American ones, and this talk will attempt to create methodological ways to see and think through the systems that create and sustain inequities.

### **Seminar Topic**

[Christina Sharpe's \*In the Wake\* \(Duke UP, 2016\)](#) offers a stark re-theorization of black subjectivity in the 21st century. This seminar will explore if/how Sharpe's theories can be applied to premodern history, culture, and texts.

Please visit <https://crrs.ca/dvs21/> for registration.

URL:

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