



**Reighan GILLAM**

Reighan Gillam is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Anthropology at the University of Southern California. Her research examines Afro-Brazilian visual culture producers and the ways in which they create images to communicate the meanings of blackness beyond visible difference. She is also undertaking a project that traces how Afro-Brazilians leverage African American people, histories, and ideas within movements for black visibility. Her research has appeared in *Communication, Culture and Critique*, *Feminist Media Studies*, *Transforming Anthropology*, *CLA Journal*, and *Black Camera*. She served as the Peggy Rockefeller Visiting Scholar at Harvard University's David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies.

### **The Politics of Diaspora: Afro-Brazilian's Use African Americans in Activist Contexts**

**Abstract:**

Using data from Afro-Brazilian cultural productions, this paper examines the ways in which African American ideas and histories migrate to Brazil and are deployed by Afro-Brazilians in their own political manifestations. Scholars have framed Brazil and the United States as racial opposites, where the racism and concrete racial lines characterize the United States and cordial race relations and racial fluidity characterizing Brazil. By including African Americans in their moves for black visibility Afro-Brazilians enact a counter-narrative that posits the similarities in the experience of racism and challenges Brazil's past and present claims to racial exceptionalism.