Racial Blackness and the Discontinuity of Western Modernity
A Celebration of the Legacy and Life of Lindon Barrett (1961-2008)

*Racial Blackness and the Discontinuity of Western Modernity* (University of Illinois Press, 2014) is a brilliant and pathbreaking re-examination of the relationship between the black experience and Western modernity. Written by Lindon Barrett, who was tragically murdered in 2008, the conference aims to outline the making of this posthumously published volume, critically assess its contribution while locating it within the wider context of Barrett’s life and legacy. With the exception of the last year of his life, Lindon Barrett spent his entire academic career serving the University of California, Irvine campus. Recruited in 1990 as an Assistant Professor of English and Comparative Literature, Barrett rose to become a full professor and distinguished himself as a founding member of the Program in African American Studies, which he served as Director from 2004 to 2007. He joined the University of California, Riverside in 2007. Barrett also authored *Blackness and Value: Seeing Double* (Cambridge University Press, 1999) and numerous scholarly essays and book chapters, including in the flagship journal *Callaloo*, which he served as Associate Editor from 1997 to 2000.

**Speakers include:**
- Dean Georges Van Den Abbeele, School of Humanities, UC Irvine
- Winston James, UC Irvine
- Justin Joyce, Northwestern University
- Katherine Kinney, UC Riverside
- Fred Moten, UC Riverside
- Janet Neary, Hunter College
- Vorris Nunley, UC Riverside
- Rajagopalan Radhakrishnan, UC Irvine
- John Carlos Rowe, University of Southern California
- Traise Yamamoto, UC Riverside

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