

Tkach, Colleen

From: Inform
Subject: EM: Dr. Westenley Alcenat "What the United States Owes Haiti: Of Trump, Cats and Dogs"
Wednesday October 9th 5:30-7:00pm Humanities 119

From: Vanessa Chavira



As the 2024 election brings renewed debates about immigration, race, and national identity, Haiti has once again become a focal point in American politics. The Africana Studies and History Departments invite you to a community-engaged lecture exploring the often-overlooked historical relationship between the United States and Haiti. The lecture traces how Haiti, the world's first Black republic, evolved from a revolutionary symbol of freedom to a nation facing immense challenges, shaped by unresolved historical debts the U.S. and France owes Haiti. It will examine why Haiti, a tiny island country, has always been at the epicenter of U.S. history—from the American Revolution and the U.S.' refusal to recognize its independence in 1804 to present-day political rhetoric and why Haiti remains central in discussions of race, immigration, and foreign policy today.



Dr. Wes Alcenat is Assistant Professor in History at Scripps College and at the Intercollegiate Department of Africana Studies (IDAS). His scholarship specializes in 19th-century United States, the Caribbean, and the African Diaspora, with a focus on the interconnected histories of African-Americans and Haitians. His forthcoming manuscript, "Children of Africa, Shall Be Haytians," explores the radical ideologies of African-American settlers in Haiti. Originally from Haiti and raised in Minneapolis, He writes for The Nation and Jacobin magazines.

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Refreshments Provided



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Africana Studies
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