Black Feminism, The Carceral State, and Abolition

A Book Talk by Sarah Haley with responses by Mariame Kaba and Dayo F. Gore

Drawing upon black feminist criticism and a diverse array of archival materials, Sarah Haley’s No Mercy Here: Gender, Punishment, and the Making of Jim Crow Modernity illuminates black women’s experiences of imprisonment in the South to uncover how gendered regimes of incarceration were crucial to the making of Jim Crow modernity. No Mercy Here examines the brutalization of imprisoned women in local, county, and state convict labor systems, while also situating them within the black radical tradition by illuminating practices of resistance, refusal, and sabotage that challenged ideologies of racial capitalism and patriarchy, offering alternative conceptions of social and political life and envisioning a world beyond prisons.

Sarah Haley is Assistant Professor of Gender Studies and African American Studies at UCLA.

Mariame Kaba is a public scholar and organizer, and the founder and director of Project NIA, a grassroots organization with a long-term vision of ending youth incarceration.

Dayo F. Gore is Associate Professor of Ethnic Studies at UC San Diego and the founder and co-director of the Black Studies Project. She is the author of Radicalism at the Crossroads: African American Women Activists in the Cold War.

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