

# BLACK HISTORY MONTH



## The Revolutionary Politics of "Ratchet" Reality Television

### DESCRIPTION

Many people refer to reality television shows as "negative representations" or "guilty pleasures," especially the "ratchet" reality TV shows like *Love & Hip Hop*, *The Real Housewives of Atlanta*, and *Basketball Wives*. This talk argues that, as a genre, reality television escapes critical attention because of its negative status and because the genre itself masks the real labor of cast and crew as "reality." Through close readings of some of the shows' more interesting moments, this talk argues that these shows address, and take progressive stances, on issues such as black vs. white motherhood, black queer sexuality, and women's empowerment.

### DATE

Tues. February 26, 2019

### TIME & PLACE

2:30 pm.

1P-223

### SPEAKER

Racquel Gates

Assistant Professor

Media Culture

### MORE INFO?

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