

This talk focuses on Black Life as a constitutive ontological limit for the workings of modern humanity. Using the racialized performances of gender by Joss Moody, the main character in Jackie Kay's 1999 novel *Trumpet*, and the musician Sun Ra as launch pads, the lecture pays particular attention to the complex ways gender and sexuality function in the barring of Black flesh from the category of the human-as-Man. Both Ra and Joss Moody embody non-normative figurations of Black masculinity that deploy the violent ungendering of Black subjects as a condition of possibility for alternate ways of inhabiting the world.

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ICI Lecture Series **ERRANS**

The English verb 'to err' has largely lost its positive connotations. It no longer invokes wandering, rambling, or roaming, and is now understood negatively in relation to a prescribed path or goal. To be sure, errors are acknowledged to play an important role in the pursuit of knowledge and happiness, but usually only to the extent that their recognition allows for their elimination, correction, and avoidance. Recognizing that a critique of ideals of productivity, success, goal-orientation, and determination is necessarily paradoxical, the **ICI Lecture Series *ERRANS*** takes the shifting meanings of 'erring' – connoting the violation of norms as well as the activity of wandering – as a prompt to explore the critical potentials and risks of embracing error, randomness, failure, and non-teleological temporalities, and to do so across different disciplines and discourses.

Alexander G. Weheliye

Black Life

