



laboratoire  
d'anthropologie  
politique

Symposium



# BODILY RESISTANCE

**EMBODYING THE BORDER, FACING  
THE POLITICS OF ALTERITY**

**GUEST SPEAKERS** Niko Besnier **ANTHROPOLOGIST, PROFESSOR AT LA TROBE UNIVERSITY,**

**MELBOURNE & Jason De León **ANTHROPOLOGIST, PROFESSOR AT THE UNIVERSITY****

**OF CALIFORNIA, LOS ANGELES**

**SCIENTIFIC COORDINATION Jérôme Beauchez LINCUS/UNISTRA & Éric Wittersheim LAP/EHES**



Maison Interuniversitaire des **Sciences de l'Homme d'Alsace** | Misha

Université de Strasbourg

5 allée du Général Rouvillois 67083 Strasbourg

Salle de la Table Ronde

**FREE ENTRANCE** subject to availability

← **ONLINE STREAMING** YouTube @MISHAlsace

2023  
/ 05  
/ avril

9H30-10H00

☞ Welcome coffee

10H-11H15

☞ Soldiers and Kings: Human Smuggling, Violence, and the Praxis of Photoethnography

JASON DE LEÓN

*In 2014, Mexico (with financial and logistical support from the Obama administration) launched Programa Frontera Sur, a security enforcement project aimed at stopping Central American migrants from reaching the U.S./ Mexico border. Under this program, Mexico dramatically increased arrests and deportations while simultaneously making the migration journey more arduous and deadly. In response to this heightened security, migrants have turned to transnational gangs such as MS-13 who have become increasingly involved in the human smuggling industry. In 2015 I began a long-term photoethnographic project focused on understanding the daily lives of Honduran smugglers who profit from transporting migrants across the length of Mexico. In this talk I use ethnographic data to discuss the relationship between transnational gangs and the human smuggling industry and outline the complicated role that photography plays as a field method and data source in this violent and ethically challenging context.*

JASON DE LEÓN IS AN ANTHROPOLOGIST, PROFESSOR AT UCLA IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ANTHROPOLOGY AND CHICANA/O STUDIES. HE IS AFFILIATED WITH THE COTSEN INSTITUTE OF ARCHEOLOGY. IN 2015, HE PUBLISHED THE LAND OF OPEN GRAVES. LIVING AND DYING ON THE MIGRANT TRAIL (UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA PRESS, CALIFORNIA SERIES IN PUBLIC ANTHROPOLOGY). FOR MORE INFORMATION @ [jasonpatrickdeleon.com](mailto:jasonpatrickdeleon.com)

11H15-11H45

☞ Coffee break



← SYMPOSIUM STREAMED ON YOUTUBE  
@MISHALSACE

11H45-13H

☞ The Migrant Athlete's Body between Hero and Abject

NIKO BESNIER

*Since the 1980s, neoliberalism has radically transformed the world of sport, as sport clubs and federations have become for-profit businesses, in conjunction with television and corporate sponsors. Neoliberal sport has had other important effects, which are rarely the object of attention: as national economies in the Global South and local economies of marginal areas of the Global North have collapsed under pressure from global capital, many young people dream of pursuing a sport career as an escape from poverty. But this elusive future is often located elsewhere, initially in regional centres, though ultimately in the wealthy centres of the Global North that can support a sport infrastructure. But the probability of success in the highly competitive world of sport is infinitesimal, and thus the migrant athlete's racialized body is suspended between images of the heroic and the abject.*

NIKO BESNIER IS AN ANTHROPOLOGIST, PROFESSOR AT LA TROBE UNIVERSITY, MELBOURNE. HIS ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE INCLUDES TEACHING ANTHROPOLOGY AT YALE UNIVERSITY, UCLA AND THE UNIVERSITY OF AMSTERDAM. FROM 2016 TO 2019, HE WAS EDITOR-IN-CHIEF OF AMERICAN ETHNOLOGIST. IN 2012-17, NIKO BESNIER DIRECTED A PROJECT TITLED "GLOBALIZATION, SPORTS, AND THE PRECARIETY OF MASCULINITY," FUNDED BY THE EUROPEAN RESEARCH COUNCIL. FOR MORE INFORMATION @ [global-sport.eu](mailto:global-sport.eu)

13H00-14H15

Lunch break

14H15-16H15

☞ Graduate Student Workshop

*The workshop is open in priority to students of the Unistra Department of Anthropology, as well as to PhD students of LinCS. Graduate students from other departments or labs may participate, subject to availability.*

IN ANY CASE, IT IS NECESSARY TO REGISTER BEFORE MARCH 25 @ [lincs@misha.fr](mailto:lincs@misha.fr)



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