

# Plantation Worlds: A Syllabus

This collection of readings—which also includes an addendum featuring films, music, and visual art—has been curated by Sophie Sapp Moore and Aida Arosoaie. Bringing together resources from Black and Indigenous Studies, Agrarian Studies, Caribbean and Postcolonial Studies, poetry, art, and film, this list situates the Plantationocene concept within and against long-standing critiques of extractive racial capitalism. Committed to careful consideration of myriad plantation forms that have emerged in different times and places— from the sugarcane fields of the Canary Islands in the 1400s to contemporary oil palm estates in Indonesia—this interdisciplinary syllabus is organized around world-building practices of making, unmaking, and regeneration that have defined plantation worlds since their inception. For a more detailed discussion, see Moore and Arosoaie’s [“A Syllabus for Plantation Worlds.”](#)



Image credit, clockwise from left: "A Slave Cabin in Barbour County, Near Eufaula." Photo from Federal Writer's Project, United States Work Projects Administration (USWPA), 1936-1938. Courtesy of the Library of Congress; Tea plantation in Darjeeling. Photo from [Wikimedia](#), 2011; Strawberry plantation in California. Photo by [Holgerhubbs](#), 2009; Hawaiian pineapple plantation, circa 1914; A villager transports oil palm fruits in Jambi, Indonesia. Photo by [Iddy Farmer/CIFOR](#), 2010; Deforested lands in Sumatra, Indonesia, being prepared for large scale palm oil development. Photo from [Wikimedia](#), 2016.

# Making

## Planting: Plantationocene(s)

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*This syllabus foregrounds ways of knowing and being that racial capitalism silences.*

## Planting: Afterlives

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# Unmaking

## Disruption

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*We hope to highlight the insurgences that are always present within plantation worlds as world-making in their own right.*

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## Fugitivity

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Harney, Stefano & Fred Moten. 2013. "Politics Surrounded" & "Blackness & Governance." In *The Undercommons: Fugitive Planning & Black Study*. 14-22, 44-58, New York: Minor Compositions.

Scott, Julius S. 2018. "Pandora's Box: The Masterless Caribbean at the End of the Eighteenth Century." In *The Common Wind: Afro-American Currents in the Age of the Haitian Revolution*. 1-37. Edited by Marcus Rediker. Verso.

Keeve, Christian Brooks. 2020. "Fugitive Seeds," *Edge Effects* 25 February. <https://edgeeffects.net/fugitive-seeds/>

Davis, Thulani. 2015. "Recovering Fugitive Freedoms." *Social Text* 33(4): 61-67.

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# Regeneration

## Reckoning

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Play available to watch online until June 30, 2021:  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=urFD1WEXuy4&feature=emb\\_title](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=urFD1WEXuy4&feature=emb_title)

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## Reparation

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*World-making is a central function of plantations.*

## Abolition

McKittrick, Katherine. 2020. "Consciousness (Feeling Like, Feeling Like This)," & "Something that Exceeds all Efforts to Definitely Pin it Down." 58-74. In *Dear Science and Other Stories*. Durham: Duke University Press.

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Gilmore, Ruth Wilson. "Geographies of Racial Capitalism" video. *Antipode Online*. <https://antipodeonline.org/geographies-of-racial-capitalism/>

# Multimedia Addendum

## Visual Art

Rosana Paulino - *Búfalas & Jatobas* (2019, Mendes Wood DM) -

<https://www.biennaleofsydney.art/artists/rosana-paulino/>

Rosana Paulino - *Red Atlantic* (2017, Pinacoteca)

<http://www.rosanapaulino.com.br/blog/>

Jose Alves de Olinda

<https://imaginariobrasileiro.com.br/blogs/news/significados-e-inspiracoes-que-envolvem-a-arte-do-mestre-jose-alves>

Sidney Amaral

<https://tamarind.unm.edu/artist/sidney-amaral/>

Toyin Ojih Odutola - *Defying the Shadow* (2020 - 2021, Risd Museum)

<https://risdmuseum.org/exhibitions-events/exhibitions/defying-shadow>

Simryn Gill & Tuassing - *Becoming Palm* (2015, Center for the Contemporary Art Singapore)

<https://www.sternberg-press.com/product/becoming-palm/>

John E Dowell Jr - *Cotton* (2018, African American Museum Philadelphia)

<https://johndowell.com/photographs/cotton/>

M Lamar - *Negrogothic, a Manifesto: The Aesthetics of M Lamar* (2014, Participant INC)

<http://www.participantinc.org/seasons/season-13/negrogothic>

[participantinc.org/content/2-seasons/7-season-13/1-negrogothic/mlamarpr.pdf](http://participantinc.org/content/2-seasons/7-season-13/1-negrogothic/mlamarpr.pdf)

Ernest Zacharevic and Charlotte Pyatt - *Splash & Burn* (Virtual)

<https://www.splashandburn.org/why-we-do-it>

Kara Walker - *A Subtlety, or the Marvelous Sugar Baby* (2014, Domino Sugar Factory)

<https://www.nytimes.com/2014/05/12/arts/design/a-subtlety-or-the-marvelous-sugar-baby-at-the-domino-plant.html>

## Film

*Rue Cases Nègres* (Dir. Euzhan Palcy, 1983)

<https://www.festival-cannes.com/en/films/rue-cases-negres>

*The Land Beneath Our Feet* (Dir. Gregg Mitman and Sarita Siegel, 2016)

<https://www.thelandbeneathourfeet.com/>

*The Big Banana* (Dir. Franck Bieleu, 2014)

<https://www.amazon.com/Big-Banana-Franck-Bieleu/dp/B00DB5F2CC>

<https://www.africanfilm.com/products/the-big-banana?variant=31528604467257>

*Indochine* (Dir. Régis Wargnier, 1992)

<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0104507/>

*Daughters of the Dust* (Dir. Julie Dash, 1991)

<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0104057/>

*La tierra y la sombra* (Dir. César Augusto Acevedo, 2015)

<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt4663992/>

## Sound

Meshell Ndegeocello - *Tiny Desk (Home) Concert*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l7db2X9RA2Y>

- - *Plantation Lullabies*

<https://open.spotify.com/album/3K1ZZP9cAwUGxZHYrUv7Qe?si=3VIErjKOTISrJ5F5-yWzsw>

Katherine McKittrick - *Dear Science and Other Stories*

[https://open.spotify.com/playlist/7AIBjDWfHnQg9oYziFETDW?si=bD-tmsR9SiKvKP83UJ\\_Rag](https://open.spotify.com/playlist/7AIBjDWfHnQg9oYziFETDW?si=bD-tmsR9SiKvKP83UJ_Rag)

Janelle Monáe - *The ArchAndroid*

[https://open.spotify.com/album/7MvSB0Jtdt1pSwZcgvYQX?si=tSOm3r7\\_R56MxaZu11M0Fw](https://open.spotify.com/album/7MvSB0Jtdt1pSwZcgvYQX?si=tSOm3r7_R56MxaZu11M0Fw)

# EDGE EFFECTS

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