

The Religious Studies Program at the University of Wisconsin–Madison presents:

THE ANCESTORS SAY "DO THE WORK": BLACK FEMINIST ETHNOGRAPHIC LESSONS FROM AFRICAN DIASPORIC RELIGIONS

A LECTURE BY N. FADEKE CASTOR,

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What do the ancestors mean when they say, “Do the work”? And how can this be understood from a Black Feminist anthropological lens? I offer that engaging African diasporic religions through a Black feminist theory and critical ethnography theoretical frame can help us to uncover theoretical and methodological “lessons” around embodiment, subjectivities, and epistemologies. Drawing on ethnographic research over two decades from Trinidad to Nigeria, I will share some thoughts (and stories) about what we can learn from a serious engagement with Black sacred epistemologies and ontologies, ultimately proposing that we consider how they could lead us to envision new futures.

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