

No Selves to Defend

Testimonies of Feminist Abolition, Retreat, and Fugitivity



A LECTURE BY

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3:15 p.m.

**English Department
Conference Room
HMNSS 2212**

DR. JASMINE SYEDULLAH is a political theorist rooted in the black radical tradition and the feminist origins of abolition activism. Having recently received her Ph.D. in Politics from University of California Santa Cruz in Political Theory, she bridges the divide between theories and practices of social justice. She is currently a University of California President's Postdoctoral Fellow in English at UCR.

"No Selves to Defend," a talk focusing on her current book project, thinks the inaugural moments of the prison abolition movement alongside the gendered protocols of testimony, solidarity and retreat authored by Harriet Jacobs in the writing and publication of her 1861 slave narrative *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl*. Instead of engaging in a struggle for recognition and conventionally radical protocols of political protest, Syedullah argues that the meanings of freedom that emerge from these moments also retreat from canonical articulations of rights central to the Western tradition of political philosophy.