CASAR cordially invites you to a lecture entitled:

Negritude or Arabism? Egypt at the Crossroads of Blackness

by Sophia Azeb

Date: Monday February 15 2016
Time: 5:30 PM
Place: building 37 (behind the old Lee observatory)

Negritude or Arabism? analyzes transnational black cultural production through two disparate ideological investments of the 1960s and 1970s: Negritude, a philosophy founded by Aime Cesaire, Leon Damas, and Leopold Sedar Senghor, and Pan-Arabism, championed by Egyptian President Gamal Abdel Nasser. This talk positions negritude and pan-Arabism as complementary, rather than antagonistic, diasporic practices that together offer a template for understanding formations of and political uses for blackness outside of a U.S.-based model. Reading these theories through the Cairo-based literary magazine, Lotus: Afro-Asian Writings, "Negritude or Arabism?" demonstrates the historic and contemporary importance of 'intersecting gazes' in facilitating (or troubling) alternative formations of transnational black solidarity and racial liberation within African communities of the African Diaspora.

Sophia Azeb is a PhD candidate in the Department of American Studies and Ethnicity at the University of Southern California. Her manuscript, Another Country: Black Americans, Arab Worlds, 1952-1979, explores the intersections of race and literary, musical, and visual cultures among Afro-diasporic communities in France, Algeria, and Egypt during the Cold War in order to demonstrate how African Americans, Egyptians, and Algerians historically located themselves within transnational and translational expressions of blackness.

Her research interests also include Arab American racial formations, comic and speculative fictions in Palestine, and race and sport. She has written on these and related topics for Africa Is A Country, The Chimurenga Chronic, KCET Artbound, Soccer Politics, and The Feminist Wire.