Are We Free Yet? Imagining Black Feminist Futures through the Politics of the Ordinary

Affectively oscillating between the urgency and despair incited by Black suffering and the resistive pleasure of #Blackjoy or #Blackgirlmagic, members of the collective "Black Feminist Fridays: Nordic and Beyond" examine the politics, possibilities, and necessity of the mundane here imagined as a site of stillness, recovery, creativity, and liveability. What does it mean to come together in the Nordics as Black feminist artists, scholars, cultural workers, and activists and create spaces where we not only mediate on the continuous denial of Black humanity; the quotidian violences of anti-Black racism that informs Black existence; and public tactics of resistance but also, make room for the utter tedium that shapes everyday life? In this panel we examine how the mundane stuff of friendship, storytelling, laughter, family life, annoyance, love, and depression become political as critical sites of emotional and mental reprieve. In this way, we explore how seeing each other in the ordinariness of our humanity performs a psychic gesture that is at once in opposition to the refusal of Black sentience and the ordinary intolerability of anti-Black racism as we ask: How is the ordinary political? What kind of respite appears through the unremarkable?

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Group/Organization:
"Black Feminist Fridays: Nordic and Beyond"

Panelists

Ro Averin (she/they) is an equity and social justice consultant and educator who centres mindfulness and intersectionality as methodologies for creating sustainable social, racial, and environmental change. Through UNLRN PRJCT Ro pulls from her background in academia, tech, non-profit organizations, and the wellness industry to build remote and in-person partnerships based on transparency and mindful accountability. Ro consults and develops strategic planning and educational resources for a range of leaders, organizations, community groups, and individuals ready to incorporate equitable, just, anti-racist, and anti-oppressive praxis into the fabric of their work. Outside of work with UNLRN PRJCT, she can generally be found in nature, writing and editing in a variety of mediums, on a yoga mat teaching or practicing, organizing art and wellness retreats like Hearing Home, or gardening and foraging on the land she loves so deeply.

Oda-Kange Midtvåge Diallo is a PhD candidate in the Departent of Interdisciplinary Studies in Culture at NTNU. Diallo's project is currently titled "Racialized Identities and National Belonging among African-Norwegian Youth." It sets out to explore different perceptions of race, blackness

and norwegianness among young people of African descent, who were born and grew up in Norway.

Jan-Therese Mendes is a postdoctoral fellow in studies of gender and race with the Centre for Gender Studies at the University of Stavanger and a 2020-2021 visiting scholar with the Amsterdam Research Centre for Gender and Sexuality. Invoking frames of analyses from Black political thought and Afro-pessimism Mendes' research examines Northern welfare states' penal fixation on the Black womb, Black mournability, pedagogies of assimilation and humiliation, and the possibilities of willful strangeness in Black visual art.

Nafeesa T. Nichols is Associate Professor of English Literature, Culture and Didactics at Høgskule på Vestlandet in Bergen, Norway. Her work focuses on black feminist and critical race approaches to Black South African, African American and Afro-Norwegian literature and popular culture.

Guro Jabulisile Sibeko is a Azanian-Norwegian teacher, author, spoken word artist and political activist. She has fought racism, homophobia and misogyny through art, public fury, and various organizations for three decades.