

Ghassan Moussawi, University of Illinois- Urbana Champaign

“What does it feel to be an Intruder? Bad Feelings and the Diasporic Gaze as Method”



Description: In this talk, I intervene in migration studies and knowledge production by examining what it feels like to be an “intruder” especially in the US today, both in academia and queer circles. Drawing on queer sociology, studies of coloniality and empire, and emotions and affect studies, I theorize bad feelings as productive emotions to lean into and sit with as opposed to treating them as individual pathologies. Finally, I introduce the concept of the “diasporic gaze” as a sociological method to showcase how migrants and diasporic subjects employ it to try to understand their conditions, here as over there.

Ghassan Moussawi is Conrad Humanities Scholar and Associate Professor of Sociology and Gender & Women’s Studies at the University of Illinois- Urbana Champaign. His interdisciplinary research lies at the intersections of transnational gender and sexuality studies, postcolonial feminisms, empire and coloniality, queer of color critique- with keen attention to affect and temporality. His award-winning book *Disruptive Situations: Fractal Orientalism and Queer Strategies* (Temple University Press, 2020), examines queer strategies of survival amidst everyday life violence and disruptions.

Thursday
October 22, 2026
12:30-1:50pm

Parkes 222
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