Description: In recent decades, suburbs have become increasingly black, and the black population more suburban. Yet, in many ways, suburbia remains politically and economically inhospitable to communities of color. This talk explores the racial politics of the municipal form, highlighting a range of challenges that racial minorities face in suburban spaces. Altogether, these challenges provide a telling window into the enduring tension between blackness and suburbia, which persists despite vast demographic changes.

John N. Robinson III hails from the Washington, DC metropolitan area. He received his BA from Hampton University, his MA from George Mason University, and his PhD from Northwestern University. Currently, he is Assistant Professor of Sociology at Princeton University and his work lies at the intersection of urban sociology, economic sociology, and the sociology of race and racism, with a focus on housing and credit policies. He is a faculty affiliate with the Race & Capitalism project (at University of Chicago) and Progressive International’s Debt Justice Working Group, and also serves on the Board of Directors for the Arch City Defenders (a holistic legal defense agency), and on the Social Science Advisory Board for the Poverty & Race Research Action Council.