



BROWN BAG PRESENTATION

Dr. Benjamin D. Fleury-Steiner

MONDAY, April 8, 2013, 12:20-1:10pm, in 203 Munroe Hall

“Jim Crow in Camouflage: Militarism and the Endless Perpetuation of America’s Drug War in Impoverished African-American Communities”

Presenter: Dr. Benjamin D. Fleury-Steiner, Associate Professor, Sociology & Criminal Justice and Black American Studies, University of Delaware. The life experiences of marginalized urban African-American military veterans extend recent arguments that connect racially targeted anti-drug enforcement and deepening racial inequality in contemporary U.S. (e.g., Alexander, 2010). Drawing on in depth life history interviews with 30 marginalized African-American male veterans from the Vietnam-Iraq War eras (e.g., Fleury-Steiner, 2012), as well as other key secondary sources (e.g., Kuzmarov, 2009), reveals how these conflagrations abroad played a pivotal role in at least three important ways: (1) the aftermath of these wars served to inflame white backlash against long aggrieved urban communities of color; (2) these wars have played a central role in undermining any coherent national racial justice or anti-poverty agenda; and (3) America’s post-Cole War Military Industrial Complex served as a primary driver for sweeping paramilitary-style criminalization efforts (e.g., the war on drugs) that have profoundly disrupted the very meaning of citizenship in the lives of African-American military veterans to this very day.