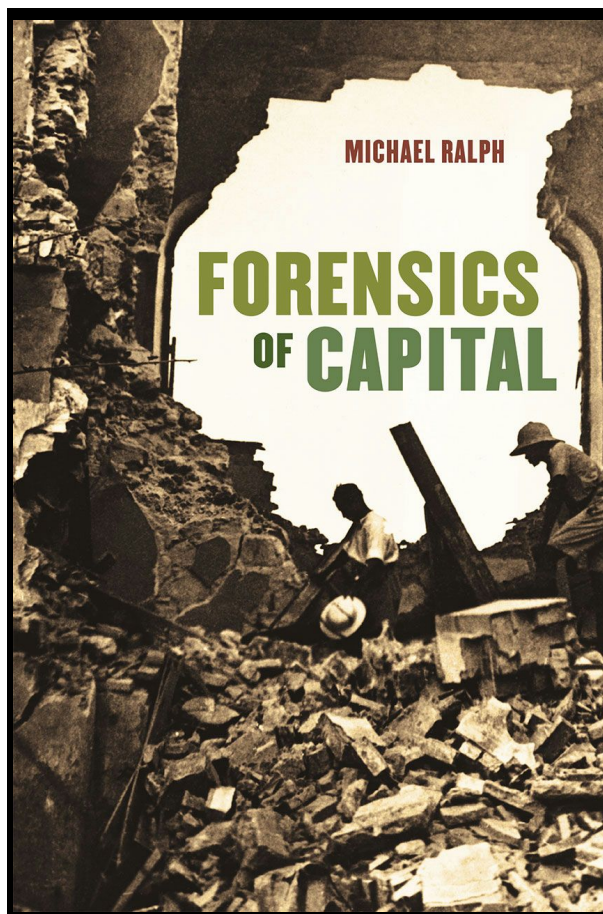


Book Talk with Professor Michael Ralph NYU, Social and Cultural Analysis

Wednesday April 13th 12-1pm. Bunche Library & Media Center
Haines Hall 135

As one of Africa's few democracies, Senegal has long been thought of as a leader of moral, political, and economic development on the continent. We tend to assume that any such nation has achieved favorable international standing due to its own merits. In *Forensics of Capital*, Michael Ralph upends this kind of conventional thinking, showing how Senegal's diplomatic standing was strategically forged in the colonial and postcolonial eras at key periods of its history and is today entirely contingent on the consensus of wealthy and influential nations and international lending agencies. Ralph examines Senegal's crucial and pragmatic decisions related to its development and how they garnered international favor, decisions such as its opposition to Soviet involvement in African liberation—despite itself being a socialist state—or its support for the US-led war on terror—despite its population being predominantly Muslim. Exploring these and many other aspects of Senegal's political economy and its interface with the international community, Ralph demonstrates that the international reputation of any nation—not just Senegal—is based on deep structural biases.



Michael Ralph is Associate Professor of Social and Cultural Analysis, Africana Studies, Gender and Sexuality Studies and American Studies. He is also Director of Metropolitan Studies at NYU. His research interests include citizenship, sovereignty, risk, liability, urban youth culture, diaspora, and postcolonialism.

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