Sarah McKee
TOME Meeting / July 31, 2018
TOME @Emory
$1.2 million, four-year grant awarded to Emory by Andrew W. Mellon Foundation in July 2016

- Based on earlier Mellon planning grant (2014-2015) that supported a 14-member Emory working group discussing digital publishing in the humanities

- Publication by Dean Michael Elliott of
  - Outlines crisis in monograph publication
  - Maintains the importance of the monograph to humanities scholarship
  - Proposes new publishing model → open access, institution-based funding
Key objectives of DPH initiative

• To encourage *conversations about open access and digital publishing* across Emory’s humanities and HSS community.

• To *support the development and formal publication of digital monographs* by Emory faculty.
  
  • Publications must undergo rigorous peer review.
  
  • Publications must be open access.
Encourage experimentation with form

• Close analogues of print monographs (i.e., open access e-books)
  • *Language of the Snakes* (University of California Press / Luminos)

• Digitally enhanced books that incorporate multimedia, annotations, or links to primary sources.
  • *Show Sold Separately* (NYU Press / Fulcrum)
  • *The Perversity of Things* (University of Minnesota Press / Manifold)

• Long-form scholarly works that could not exist in a print environment.
  • *Enchanting the Desert* (Stanford Digital Projects @Stanford University Press)
Ontological Terror: Blackness, Nihilism, and Emancipation

By Calvin L. Warren
Assistant Professor of Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies at Emory University

In Ontological Terror Calvin L. Warren intervenes in Afro-pessimism, Heideggerian metaphysics, and black humanist philosophy by positing that the "Negro question" is intimately imbricated with questions of being. Warren uses the figure of the antebellum free black as a philosophical paradigm for thinking through the tensions between blackness and being.

Read the full description at Duke University Press. This book was published as part of the TOME initiative.

From the author
Publishing Ontological Terror as open access seemed like a necessary and revolutionary idea. Fragments of my work are often shared via social media and other forums—there is a public interest in black nihilism.

The question of black existence hits the contemporary moment with seismic force: black youth are dying at staggering rates, black infant mortality rates are abysmal, spiritual pulverization and emotional distress are more quotidian than exceptional. What is black life (and death) within this structure of continual obliteration? My students have asked for answers to this question, and they want to share these answers with their friends, family, and peers. But expensive texts often make knowledge accessible only to a privileged group. Open access publication allows me to reach beyond the walls of the academy and encourages my colleagues to assign the book in their classes.

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Duke University Press
**Forthcoming titles**

**Molecular Feminisms**
Biology, Becomings, and Life in the Lab
DEBOLENA ROY

**DESCRIPTION**

"What do neurons think about?" “How can we learn from bacterial writing?” These provocative questions have haunted neuroscientist and molecular biologist Deboleena Roy since her early days of research when she was conducting experiments on an in vitro cell line using molecular biology techniques. An expert natural scientist as well as an anthropological feminist theorist, Roy takes seriously the expressive capabilities of biological "objects"—such as bacteria and other human, nonhuman, organic, and inorganic entities—in order to better understand processes of becoming. She also suggests that renewed interest in matter and materiality in feminist theory must be accompanied by new feminist approaches that work with the everyday, quotidian research methods and techniques in the natural sciences.

By practicing science as feminism at the lab bench, Roy creates an interdisciplinary conversation between molecular biology, Deleuzian philosophy, science and technology studies, feminist theory, posthumanism, and poststructural and decolonial studies. In Molecular Feminisms she brings insights from feminist and cultural theory together with lessons learned from the capabilities and techniques of bacteria, subculturing, and synthetic biology to offer tools for how we might approach nature anew. In the process she demonstrates that learning how to see the world around us is also always about learning how to encounter that world.

DEBOLEENA ROY is associate professor and chair of the Department of Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies and holds a joint appointment in neuroscience and behavioral biology at Emory University. She has published in journals such as Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society, Hypatia: A Journal of Feminist Philosophy, Embodiment, Neuroembodimentology, and the Journal of Biological Chemistry. Her research has been supported through the National Science Foundation and the National Academies Keck Futures Initiative.
Scholarship development workshops
Faculty engagement
Upcoming events, 2018–2019

• open access author reception

• "inventional" stage workshops for digital monographs

• lunches with humanities chairs / discipline-specific outreach

• roundtable discussion on monographs ➔ ms workshops