Education is not politically neutral. There is an ongoing discussion in philosophy and social science about how implicit norms and racial biases operate in knowledge production, and how these are inseparable from power structures. This talk discusses how structural racism operates through the norms at work in educational institutions, and uses that framework to discuss the ethical and political complexities of teaching philosophy on Rikers Island.

Eva Boodman is a Ph.D. candidate in Philosophy at Stony Brook University working on ethics, social and political philosophy, feminist philosophy, decolonial philosophy, and the philosophy of race. With her public humanities fellowship, she will develop and teach relevant, responsive curricula to be taught at the women’s jail on Rikers Island.