Abstract: Conversations about Asian American status in race theory and popular culture coalesce around two interpretations: that of a highly successful "model minority" that gives lie to the existence of ongoing racial oppression, and that of "honorary whites" who have assimilated to the point that they are afforded many of the benefits of white privilege. I will argue that both models rest on an oversimplified and facile understanding of power, where racial hierarchy is treated as a simple, linear progression from most to least oppressed; this model offers no way to conceptualize the very different forms that anti-Black, anti-Asian and anti-Latin@ racism take. This static conception also elides the ways in which racialized communities actively resist and navigate existing patterns of oppression. Drawing on the work of feminist philosophers Luce Irigaray and Cherie Moraga, I'll argue that this amounts to a reductive "logic of the same" that results in the "ranking of oppressions" that Moraga warned against. My own past work on Moraga and Irigaray offers resources to think about multiple, intersecting axes of oppression. Time permitting, I'll say a few words about how the resulting appearance of conflict between Black and Asian interests serves to distract from common interests in areas like college admissions.

Biography: Sabrina L. Hom received her PhD in philosophy from Stony Brook University in 2009. She wrote her dissertation on women's subjectivity in Irigaray and Hegel, with a focus on their interpretations of Antigone. She also completed the Women's Studies Graduate Certificate at Stony Brook. With Serene Khader and Mary C. Rawlinson, she is a co-founder of the Luce Irigaray Circle. She has held faculty positions at McGill University, Westminster College, and Georgia College. She is currently a lecturer at Georgia College in Milledgeville, Georgia; starting in August, she will be an Assistant Professor and Coordinator of the Women's Studies Program there. Her current research is focused on mixed-race subjectivity and kinship.

Thursday, March 24th, 2016
4:00pm
Harriman Hall, Room 214
Reception to Follow