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February Newsletter

Hello and welcome to BCaT Lab's February newsletter! We have a jam-packed program of events for you this month, as well as some big plans for future programming...

Announcements



BCaT
BLACK COMMUNICATION
TECHNOLOGY

@BCaT_DISCO

BCaT Lab Open Hours

10:00AM - 3:00 PM
Tue-Thur

Tuesday: Podcast room available

Wednesday: Lunch and Learn
12:00PM - 1:00PM

Thursday: Writing Lab

Selected Wednesdays:

BCaT Applies: 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM

BCaT Eats: 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM



For inquiries,
contact:
BCaT@umdedu

Updated Lab Opening Hours

The lab hours have changed - we will now be open from Tuesday to Thursday, with the podcast room available for use on Tuesdays, our regular programming of *Lunch and Learn*, *Applies* and *Eats* sessions on Wednesdays, and our *Writing Lab* on Thursdays.

[Learn More](#)

FEBRUARY IN
BCAT LAB
TUESDAY - THURSDAY 10-3PM:
OPEN LAB HOURS
WEDNESDAY LUNCH 12-1PM:
BCAT BOOK CLUB
WEDNESDAY 21ST 3-5PM
**BCAT APPLIES:
PREPPING FOR AOIR**
WEDNESDAY 21ST 5-7PM
BCAT EATS
WEDNESDAY 28TH 12-1PM
**BIG BRANDS ARE
WATCHING YOU**



BCATLAB.ORG
SKINNER 3115



February Overview

Check out our busy month ahead!
You can register to attend upcoming
events at the link below:

[Learn More](#)

BCaT BOOKCLUB



introducing...

BCaT BOOKCLUB

2024

FEB **BIG BRANDS ARE WATCHING YOU**
DR FRANCESCA SOBANDE
WEDNESDAYS 12-1PM

MAR **RESURRECTING THE BLACK BODY**
DR TONIA SUTHERLAND
WEDNESDAYS 12-1PM

APR **BLACK NETWORKED RESISTANCE**
DR RAVEN SIMONE MARAGH-LLOYD
WEDNESDAYS 12-1PM

BCaT LUNCH & LEARN: BCaT LAB
SKINNER 3115
ONLINE AND IN LAB

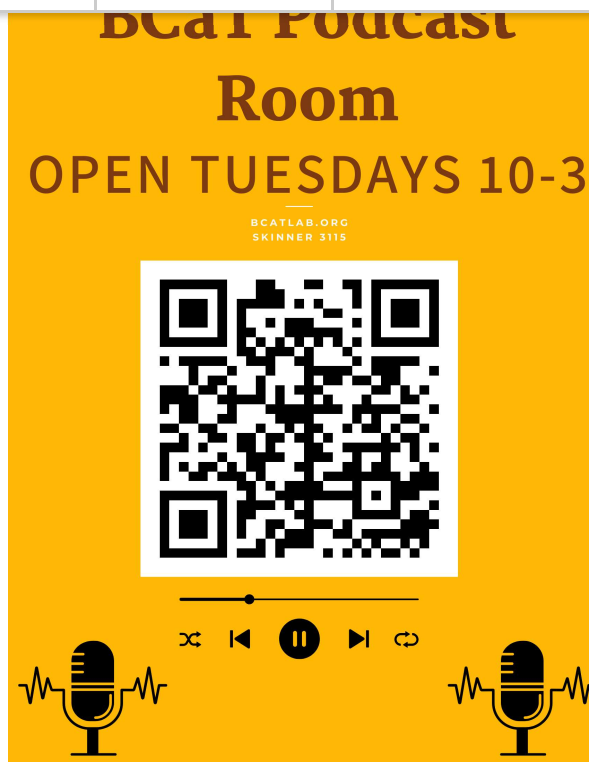
EVERY MONTH - FIRST FIVE IN-PERSON ATTENDEES RECEIVE A FREE BOOK!

Introducing our new programming - the *BCaT Bookclub*! Every month we will be reading a different author's latest publication.

We will be hosting weekly bookclub meetings paired with guest talks and Q&As from that month's author. Join us in our *Lunch and Learn* slot to discuss the author's book from 12-1pm.

Every month, the first five in-person visitors to the *BCaT Bookclub* will receive a free copy of the book! Copies will also be made available in the library catalogue.

[Learn More](#)



BCaT Podcast
Room
OPEN TUESDAYS 10-3

BCATLAB.ORG
SKINNER 3115

QR code linking to the podcast room booking page.

Audio player interface with play/pause, skip, and volume controls, and two microphone icons.

Podcast Room

Sign up to use our podcasting room on Tuesdays from 10-3. You can book up to two hours per Tuesday by following the link below:

[Learn More](#)

Upcoming Events

Big Brands are Watching You

For February's *BCaT Bookclub* we welcome Dr Francesca Sobande, associate professor in digital media studies at Cardiff University, to discuss her new monograph 'Big Brands are Watching You'.

Dr Sobande will be joining us for a talk and Q&A session on **28th February** during our *Lunch and Learn* slot, from 12-1pm. Don't miss it!



BIG BRANDS ARE WATCHING YOU

BCaT Lab Presents
28TH FEBRUARY
12PM - 1PM SKINNER 3115

FRANCESCA SOBANDE

QR code linking to the event page.

How is morality understood in the marketplace? Why do brands speak out about certain issues of injustice and not others? And what is influencer culture's role in social and political activism? *Big Brands Are Watching You* investigates corporate culture, from the branding of companies and nations to television portrayals of big business and the workplace. Francesca Sobande analyzes media, interviews, survey responses, and ephemera from the history of advertising as well as exhibitions in London, brand stores in Amsterdam, a music festival in Las Vegas, and archives in Washington, DC, to illuminate the world of branding.

Francesca Sobande is Senior Lecturer in Digital Media Studies at Cardiff University, author of 'The Digital Lives of Black Women in Britain' and 'Consuming Crisis: Commodifying Care and COVID-19', and coauthor of 'Black Out Here: Black Lives in Scotland'.

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bcatalab.umd.edu

BCaT Eats

Join us for our regular monthly line-up of BCaT Eats sessions!

We'll be hosting games nights, movie nights, and of course, good food <3

[Learn More](#)

BCaT Applies

We'll be using the next two months of BCaT Applies to help you prepare for your applications to some of our lab's major conferences, AoIR and NCA.

[Learn More](#)

Spotlight on...

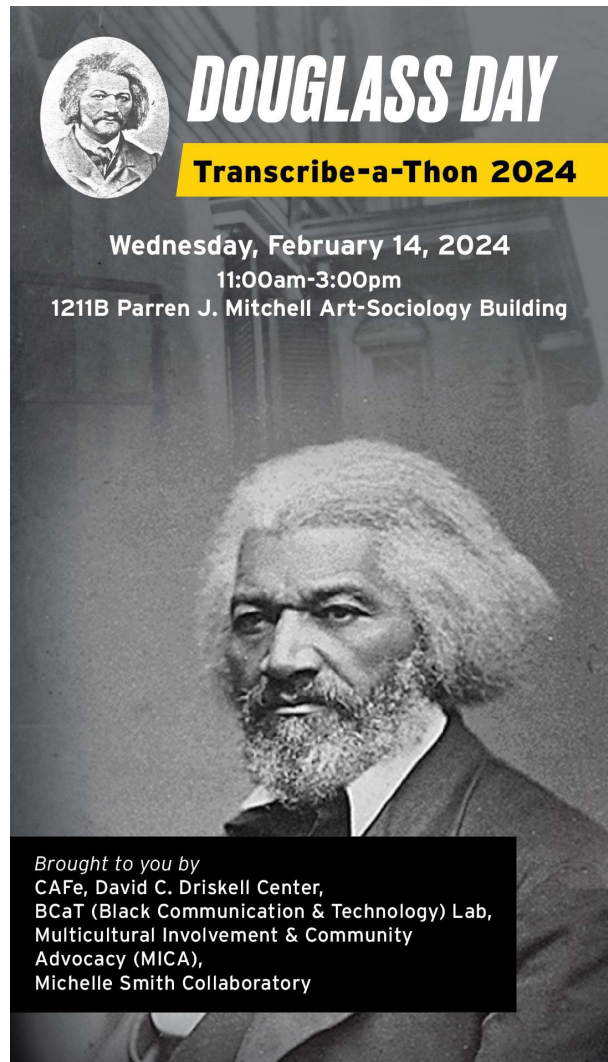
Douglass Day

Join us again for the annual Douglass Day transcribe-a-thon on Frederick Douglass' chosen birthday, Valentines day!

We'll be supporting the events programming from 11am - 3pm, including activities such as:

- Transcribing the correspondence of Frederick Douglass
- Singing Douglass a happy birthday - with cake!
- The 4th annual Douglass Day bakeoff

[Sign up here!](#)



DOUGLASS DAY
Transcribe-a-Thon 2024

Wednesday, February 14, 2024
11:00am-3:00pm
1211B Parren J. Mitchell Art-Sociology Building

Brought to you by
CAFe, David C. Driskell Center,
BCaT (Black Communication & Technology) Lab,
Multicultural Involvement & Community
Advocacy (MICA),
Michelle Smith Collaboratory

WHO OWNS BLACK DATA ?

We're so excited to attend 'Who Owns Black Data: Slavery & Data', hosted on March 29, 2024 from 9-5pm in Baltimore by the Black Beyond Data Ecosystem at Johns Hopkins University and Morgan State University.

This historic convening will gather a distinguished group of scholars, librarians, activists and archivists to discuss, elucidate, and provide public answers to the question: who owns and controls the Black historical and cultural record?

[Learn More](#)

WHO OWNS BLACK DATA ?
SLAVERY & DATA

March 29, 2024
Baltimore, MD

Who Owns Black Data? Slavery & Data is a gathering, a dialogue, conversation, and refusal dedicated to unpacking the question: "Who owns and who gets to own Black, African, and African diasporic data from the past in the present and the future."

PUBLIC SYMPOSIUM
9am—5pm
Charles Commons (32nd & St. Paul)

KEYNOTE CONVERSATION & BOMBAZO
6pm to 9 pm
NoMiNoMu (709 Howard St)

Dorothy Berry
Southwest Historical Museum of African American History and Culture

Jennifer Morgan
New York University

Bilphiana Yahwon
Morgan State

Semille Cultural
Bomba Workshop & Bombazo

BLACK BEYOND DATA

Sponsored by the Mellon Foundation, Morgan State University, the Johns Hopkins University Center for African American Studies, the JHU Center for African Studies, the JHU School of Medicine and the Center for Medical Humanities, and the JHU Program in Latin, Caribbean and Latin American Studies

Black Feminist Worldmaking

This week, our own Dr Catherine Steele was in conversation with Dr Meredith Clark as the keynote for the 3rd annual bell hooks symposium on *Black Feminist Worldmaking*.

[Watch the Recording Here](#)



TECHNOSKEPTICISM

DISCO Network's upcoming publication "Technoskepticism: Between Possibility and Refusal" offers a critical road map of the contemporary digital landscape in regards to race relations, disability history and care activism.

Refusal is a precious space of possibility. People of color and disabled people have long navigated this space between saying yes and saying no to the newest technologies in ways that can empower and energize our awareness of the possibilities skepticism can create.

Technoskepticism was co-written by an inter-generational group of 14 scholars at a five-day retreat in summer 2023, and is under review with Stanford press.

[Learn More](#)

Critical Approaches to Black Media Culture

BCaT Lab goes to NOLA! Alisa Hardy, Andrew Lowe, Tynesha McCullers and Rianna Walcott will be presenting on a panel on 'Digital Technologies and Practices'.



Exploring Black Digital Migration through Collaborative Research



Andrew Lowe, Tynesha McCullers, Alisa Hardy

Digital Migration’.

[Learn More](#)

New Blogpost!

Check out our latest blogpost for an update on our fall semester, including highlights from our lab events, conference presentations, and collaborative project!

[Learn More](#)



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