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## September Newsletter

Welcome back to a new academic year with the BCaT Lab.  
Hello to old friends and new subscribers - as ever we have a jam packed schedule,  
and we hope to see you in the lab or online!

If you'd like to stay abreast of our future events, you can add our calendar here:

[Add BCaT Google Calendar](#)

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## Announcements

## BCaT Bookclub

In the BCaT Bookclub this semester we will be learning about Black Homeplaces, centring Black placemaking practices across the diaspora as modes of resistance, celebration, play, and containers of Black archives. We will engage a variety of mediums, including articles and chapters, art exhibitions, and watching and discussing films and documentaries in the lab.

**Wednesday lunchtimes from 12-1pm**, bring your lunch and **join us in Skinner 3115!** Please keep an eye on the [BCaT Events](#) page for information about what we will be discussing that week.



**ZOOM OPTION AVAILABLE**

### BCaT BOOKCLUB

**Wednesdays 12-1pm**

This semester in BCaT Bookclub we will engage with art exhibitions, films, readings and more, while exploring Black placemaking practices across the diaspora.

Keep an eye on our events page for up-to-date information about the weekly topic.

Bring your lunch and join us at the lab!

[bcatlab.org](http://bcatlab.org) Skinner 3115



[Learn More](#)



## DISCO CO(LAB)

### Project Info Session

Join us for an information session on **Wednesday, September 18th at 10am** to learn about our new inter-institutional research project focusing on Black Homeplace and Black placemaking practices.

We're seeking collaborators from UMD and beyond, and will award some summer microgrants for participation. The project will include weekly co-working, learning, and practical workshops throughout the 2024-2025 academic year.

[Learn More](#)

## Upcoming Events

# BCaT Applies

It's that time of year again - the postings are going live, the job listservs are picking up speed and your materials are...??

If you are a grad student on the market this year and would like some eyes on any part of your application portfolio, join us at the BCaT Lab on **Wednesday 25th September from 3-5pm** for our materials clinic.

[Learn More](#)

# BCaT Eats

Join us for our regular monthly line-up of BCaT Eats sessions! Directly after BCaT Applies on **Wednesdays from 5-7pm**.

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

[Learn More](#)

# BCaT APPLIES

PRESENTS

THE BCaT LAB

3-5PM

If you're a grad student on the market this year and would like some eyes on any part of your application portfolio, join us at the BCaT Lab for our September event!

**ACADEMIC JOB MARKET CLINIC**

3-5pm

SEPT 25

**OCT 16 ALT-ACADEMIA**

3-5pm

FUTURE EVENT

FUTURE EVENT

**GRAD SCHOOL APPLICATIONS CLINIC**

3-5pm

DEC 4

SKINNER 3115

BCATLAB.ORG

STICK AROUND FOR BCAT EATS DIRECTLY AFTERWARDS, FROM 5-7PM

THE BCaT LAB PRESENTS

5-7PM

**DINNER & Cinema**

WEDNESDAYS

- SEPTEMBER 25TH
- OCTOBER 16TH
- DECEMBER 4TH

SKINNER 3115

WWW.BCATLAB.ORG

BCaT EATS

# Spotlight on...



## 2024 Just Tech Fellow

Our lab director, Dr Catherine Knight Steele, has been awarded a 2024-2026 Just Tech Fellowship to address the expansion of automation, machine learning, and AI in education.

'Automating Black Joy' reimagines the role of Black youth, culture, and history in shaping our digital future. By viewing Black youth as leaders and emphasizing joy as a form of resistance, the project looks to create a collaborative educational model from high school to graduate school. It focuses on accessible research, both highlighting Black culture, history, and resistance methods, and addressing critical questions about automating Black joy and its implications. By prioritizing Black cultural production and digital technology, the project seeks to integrate social justice into AI development, ensuring a more inclusive and equitable future.

[Learn more](#)



Our mailing address is:

Want to subscribe to the BCaT listserv?  
send an email to [listserv@listserv.umd.edu](mailto:listserv@listserv.umd.edu)

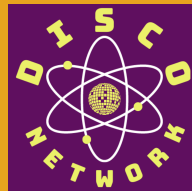
In the body of your mail message type:  
SUB BCAT-UMD FirstName LastName

For example:

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The BCaT Lab is part of the DISCO Network, funded by the Mellon Foundation.



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