



THE



ISSUE 2, SPRING 2026



RACE

EDITORS' NOTE

Dear Readers,

We write to you in a moment marked by intensifying violence, displacement, and the ongoing fight for land, language, safety, and belonging—here and globally. As co-editors, we approached this issue's theme, “decolonization?,” with both urgency and care, recognizing that the word itself can be both overused and emptied of meaning, while still holding deep weight. The question mark is intentional: it signals the unfinished and contested work of decolonization, as well as the specific, often divergent, lived realities and histories that inform how each of us engages with it.

In bringing together the voices in this issue, we are acutely aware of the different proximities we each have to violence, dispossession, and the ongoing legacies of colonialism and settler colonialism. Some contributors have chosen to remain anonymous, underscoring that to speak about decolonization is not without risk—especially for those whose lives and families are impacted by borders, policing, surveillance, or displacement. For some, the question of decolonization is immediate—a matter of survival, language, home, or safety. For others, it may be less immediate, shaped by relationships of solidarity, by the work of listening, and by accountability to those most impacted. We wish to honor these differences and to hold space for the vulnerabilities, uncertainties, and courage that are present in these contributions.

At Colorado College, we see our community grappling with what decolonization might mean on this land, in this moment. Whether it is through calls for land back and Indigenous sovereignty, organizing for housing justice and rent control, movements to abolish policing and prisons, or the insistence on speaking Spanish and other languages in spaces that have sought to erase them, we are learning from one another's struggles and questions. This issue does not offer easy answers, but invites us to recognize both our different relationships to power and place, and our shared responsibility in building more just and liberated futures.

With care and solidarity,
The Co-Editors
Mila & Kendall

“Untitled” by Zoe Gardner



On Thursday, February 26, The Rag, in collaboration with the Prison Project at CC and ICE OUT!, held a collaborative zine building session in B-Side, where materials were provided for participants to create zines that contains crucial information to be used in the case of an ICE arrest or raid.

The numbers and information that were used in the zines were taken from the website of the Colorado Rapid Response Network (CORRN), a regional Colorado network that has a 24/7 hotline where anyone can call to report ICE activity and receive support for someone who has been detained or deported.

The following 2 pages are 2 of the zines that were distributed the following day in front of Worner.

We urge everyone, but especially people whose lives and the lives of their families and friends are not the targets of ICE's terrorist activity, to use their privilege and power to fight for our friends, family, neighbours and colleagues whose lives and livelihoods are directly on the line.

It is crucial to have CORRN's hotline saved

in your phone: 1-844-864-8341.

It is crucial that you get trained in one of CORRN's many volunteer roles, such as:

- Legal Observer;
- Confirmer;
- Dispatcher;
- DocuTeam
- Public Responder
- On-Site Action Coordinator



To find out more about the Colorado Rapid Response Network, please scan the QR code above.

WE KEEP US SAFE. THE POLICE, THE STATE, AND ITS INSTITUTIONS, ARE HERE ONLY TO OPRESS AND EXPLOIT US.



ICE and the IDF: TRANSNATIONAL STATE

Call if you witness activity

1-844-864-8341

STANDARD OIL
DIVISION OF AMERICAN OIL COMPANY

John Doe

512 345 678 9

JOHN DOE
1234 MAIN ST
ANYWHERE USA

SIGN IN INK ABOVE • NOT VALID UNLESS SIGNED BY CUSTOMER

GOOD THRU
12 MONTH
64 YEAR

ICE uses to check what great

2 **PALANTIR:**
(data-mining software company)

allows ICE agents to track and monitor people more effectively

increased militarization at policing

weaponization of surveillance technology

3 makes decisions about which people the IDF should target for attacks

4 "Maintaining a medicalized socioeconomic order."
The goal has remained the same, but the deployment of ICE has just made it all the more apparent.

5 **LIFE OR DEATH DETERMINATIONS PROVIDED FROM US DATA!**

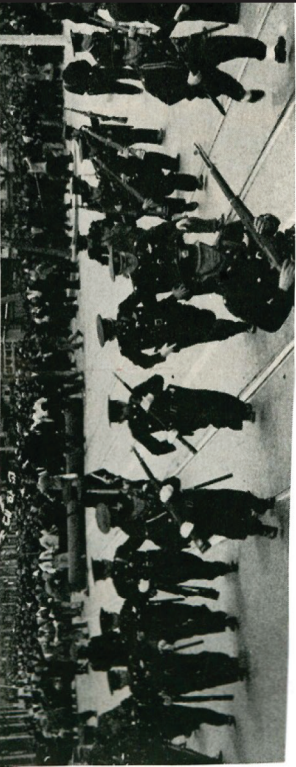
7 **THE SURVEILLANCE STATE** is profitable and supports the maintenance of colonialism; **ICE** was developed as a colonial management tool.

CAPITALISM depends on control over inter-group and inter-class conflict.

IMPERIAL AND ETHNONATIONALISTIC TENDENCIES OF ICE AND THE IDF:

1. Use military checkpoints
2. Constant surveillance
3. Arbitrary detentions and arrests

CANARY MISSION ← Zionism



WE ARE LOOKING FOR A RAG COORDINATOR (OR TWO!) FOR NEXT YEAR.

**THE RAG IS A STUDENT-RUN ZINE
THAT IT IS GUIDED BY AN ANTI-
RACIST, ANTI-COLONIAL AND
FEMINIST AND QUEER ETHOS, AND
ENTAILS BRINGING A COMMUNITY OF
WRITERS AND ARTISTS TOGETHER AS
CONTRIBUTORS.**

**DO YOU LOVE THE
RAG? DO YOU WANT TO
HELP PUBLISH IT?**

**PLEASE EMAIL WHITNEY
@WHAMPSON2025@COLORADOCOLLEGE.EDU IF YOU
WOULD LIKE MORE INFORMATION!**



Art by Kendall Reynolds

sex and colonization

**rape and control
power they stole
still weak and pale, never whole
thieves of bodies, thieves of land
on their own, they'll never stand
lies, bodies demonized
from youth we've been sexualized
told our worth lies between our thighs
our bodies exist to please others
and its all our fault, tempting sin
but its not our fault and its not normal
its evil and colonial
and as they rage out of control
they may take my flesh, but I remain unconquerable**

**sterilized and circumsized
violated, sodomized
sex has been weaponized
for war and enterprise
colonized and poisonous
white power, powerless**

**the klan is knocking at our door
but I know what you're here for
I can see through your sheet
through your badge of deceit
segregate and control
deny what you stole
forced your dirty white genes
upon black and brown queens
but your actions, just nightmares
and you'll never take our dreams
try to erase culture
you could not kill
our strength you cannot colonize
we are here still**

**sex and colonization
rape and control
thieves of bodies, thieves of land
on your own, you'll never stand**

Machete Garcia

In loving memory of



Dr. Dwanna

Ma Kay

Her legacy of brilliance,
compassion, and
decolonial advocacy lives
on in all who were lucky
enough to learn from her.



FGS History Project

Welcome to a new section of the Monthly Rag, dedicated to exploring the rich history of Feminist and Gender Studies (FGS) at Colorado College. For those who may not be familiar, our department's history project aims to trace the evolution of FGS from its earliest days—when it operated out of a basement and relied on the unpaid labor and goodwill of faculty in other departments—to its present status as an established department with a robust curriculum and a commitment to equity, care, and critical thinking.

In this inaugural feature, we invite you to take a first look into our department's long-standing legacy by revisiting the very first issues of the Monthly Rag—then called WomanSpeak—published during the 1990–1991 academic year. QR codes included in this issue will link you to those foundational newsletters, beginning with December 1990, offering a window into the origins of FGS at Colorado College.

As current FGS chair Dr. Nadia Guessous observes in the article about the FGS department on the American Council of Learned Societies Website, “While our field values the margins as sources of knowledge, we have always simultaneously recognized that there is nothing glamorous about institutional precarity and that we should fight for the resources that we need and deserve.” Over the years, FGS has persisted through challenges, redefining what it means to do feminist and gender studies, to be inclusive in both scholarship and faculty, and to ground its curriculum in intersectional and transnational perspectives.

Today, FGS is a department with four faculty members, all faculty of color. For the first time in our history, new colleagues are mentored and supported by faculty who have themselves been both trained and tenured in FGS. We hope this ongoing history project will inspire new editors and readers alike to reflect on—and contribute to—the evolving story of Feminist and Gender Studies at Colorado College.



The Women's Newsletter

December 1990, Volume 1, No. 1

“Welcome to the first Colorado College Women's Newsletter! We plan to publish this newsletter each block, with news of profiles, upcoming events, and reports on past ones, profiles of women on campus, reviews of books and films of interest to women, details of job ads, scholarships, conferences, etc.”

The Women's Newsletter

January 1991, Volume 1, No. 2

The theme for this issue is "Feminism and Science"



The Ghost in the Garden: Yugonostalgia and the “White Enclosure” of the Balkan Muslim

To participate in Yugonostalgia today is to engage in a form of radical grieving, a selective amnesia that clings to the “Red Passport” and the phantom of *Bratstvo i Jedinstvo* as a bulwark against the soul-crushing reality of neoliberal transition. We look back at the Yugoslav project as a lost socialist utopia, a moment of “more” in a world of “less.” But Piro Rexhepi’s *White Enclosures* serves as a brutal, necessary exorcism of this sentimentality. We have to stop treating the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia as a finished masterpiece and start seeing it for what it was: a project of “White Enclosure” that required the disciplinary containment, secularization, and racial management of its Muslim populations. Rexhepi dismantles the myth of the secular state, revealing that “Brotherhood” was never an open door; it was a club with a Eurocentric dress code. The state’s “civilizing mission” toward Muslims in Bosnia, Kosovo, and Macedonia wasn’t just about socialism—it was about being “White” enough for the modern world.

The removal of the zar and the aggressive shuttering of Madrasas in the 1950s were framed as “liberation,” but they were fundamentally colonial erasures. They were designed to strip the Muslim subject of their “Oriental” baggage so they could be fit for a European-style modernity. The “Brother” in Brotherhood and Unity had to look, speak, and act like a secular European. Any deviation into the “Eastern” was coded as backwardness, a threat to the progressive trajectory of the state. This wasn’t a side effect of Yugoslav socialism; it was the core of its “White Enclosure.” The state was engaged in a permanent “audition” for European belonging, using its Muslim populations as the laboratory for its own civilizing aspirations.

This hypocrisy reached its absolute zenith in the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM). For the Yugonostalgic, the NAM is the crown jewel of Tito’s legacy—the moment the Balkans led the Global South. But Rexhepi pulls the mask off this “Third World” solidarity. He reveals a cynical, geopolitical performance: Yugoslavia “rented” its Muslim identity to secure construction contracts and political leverage in the Middle East and Africa, while simultaneously brutalizing its own “internal others” at home. While Tito was shaking hands with Nasser

and Nehru, the state was treating its Albanians, Bosniaks, and Roma as primitive vestiges of an Ottoman past that needed to be managed, surveyed, and silenced. It was a racialized double-play: Yugoslavia performed “Brownness” abroad to gain power, while doubling down on “Whiteness” at home to secure its borders.

This coloniality didn’t die in 1991; it simply found a new master in Brussels. Today, the post-Yugoslav states are caught in a violent apprenticeship. They are desperate for EU membership, and the price of admission is acting as the frontline mercenaries for “Fortress Europe.” This is the “positionality” Rexhepi warns us about: the Balkan state as a gatekeeper. To prove they are “civilized” enough for the European Union, states like Croatia, Serbia, and Bosnia must police the “Balkan Route” with a savagery that mirrors the very fascism they once claimed to defeat. They are the enforcers of a “White Enclosure” that keeps the “Oriental” body out of Europe, brutalizing refugees from Syria, Afghanistan, and North Africa to prove their own racial loyalty to the West.

The EU demands that the Balkans act as a buffer zone, a transit camp, and a cage. In doing so, these states are participating in a self-colonization. They are so desperate to be seen as the “shield of civilization” that they have become the borderguards of a prison they themselves are trapped in. They enforce the migration routes the EU wants strangled, performing a racialized violence that is the ultimate “audition” for Whiteness. Every pushback at the border, every dehumanizing camp, is a message to Brussels: “Look, we are not like them. We are like you.”

We must reject the lie that the Balkans are “caught between” East and West. We are being used by the West to police the East. A radical leftist critique must discard the uncritical nostalgia for a “Brotherhood” that was built on the backs of marginalized Muslims, just as it must reject the neoliberal “integration” that turns our homes into border-outposts for an imperial core. The Balkans will never be liberated until we stop trying to “fit” into the White Enclosure of Europe. We must stop being the borderguards of our own colonizers.

The struggle for the “Balkan Route” is the struggle for our own soul. True solidarity isn’t a memory of a red passport; it is the active, de-colonial refusal to enforce the borders of Fortress Europe. We must dismantle the enclosures—both the ones in our history books and the ones currently being built with EU funds. We don’t need a seat at the table of Whiteness; we need to burn the table down and stand with those who are being kept outside the gates. Only by embracing our position as a crossroads, rather than a cage, can we find a way out of the “White Enclosure.”

Mila Naumovska



Art by Kendall Reynolds

Stitch The Dysfluent Words

Because a certain strand of words Stitch and restitch themselves across the decades.

Refuse Wall Street.

Drool dream panic stim

Grow and thud

Float in the dark

fall along my skin

Spark errors hammered into solid black lines

That hold off the collapse as our

Words failing into collisions of flesh

Or flesh and its bounds

that inarticulate beast

Words that inadequately describe what is more akin to a bomb exploding inside of you

Disguised or amplified in all the same trembling sighs


Do not swallow your dysfluent voice. Let it erupt in its

Stoppage, aporia,

Thick in the face and spitting through the eons

Heckling at your flesh to carve in it.

Anonymous



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OTHER BLOCK**



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