The Minnesota International Relations Colloquium Presents:

**Africa in Oceania:**
Thinking Besides the Subaltern

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In 1979 Keskidee, a Black theatre troupe from London, along with Ras Messengers, their RasTafari band, travelled to Aotearoa New Zealand as part of a project to help catalyse a decolonial art and culture movement amongst Māori and Pasifika youth. Upon arrival the group was driven to Te Hāpua in the far north of the North Island and welcomed by Ngāti Kuri, the people of that land. The elder who greeted them explained that despite the great distances that had stood them apart, both of their ancestors were meeting because they had met, and they were, therefore, tātou tātou (one peoples). There is no “other” in this modality of greeting, and neither are there subalterns. Indeed, despite poor material connectivity (imperial routes do not directly or regularly connect the peoples of Aotearoa and the peoples of Africa and its Diaspora) there seems to be extant, in this meeting, a rich relationality. I will use this meeting as a point of departure in order to make some remarks about how we might think of shifting locations of knowledge cultivation. Thinking besides – rather than through - the subaltern allows one to glean a global infrastructure of anti-colonial connections, evidenced in the meeting at Te Hāpua that are otherwise made invisible by the dominant tropes of colonial and postcolonial thought.

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