Searching in Aluminum’s Shadows: Black Geographies and Industrial Toxicity

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3204 Murray Hall &
Broadcast to IMS 271

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The Curriculum in Environment and Ecology (ENEC) at UNC-CH
Presents a seminar on 03/23/2017 in Murray Hall’s room 3204 from:

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Abstract: The environmental justice movement in the United States has long argued that race and waste are intimately intertwined in capitalist society. I explore how the “shadow geographies” of race and waste impact politics in the intimate spheres of home and body; in the public sphere of democracy where suffering is translated into health-based claims for justice; and in the cultural sphere where collective understandings of racial history are shaped. In this presentation, I argue that industrialization intimately binds race to waste, and examine the implications of this toxic interweaving for toxicity, racial justice and environmental politics. My dissertation research focuses on Badin, North Carolina, a former aluminum company town where Black residents are struggling to overcome a legacy of environmental racism. Addressing the importance of memory practices to environmental justice, I discuss my research play, “Race and Waste in an Aluminum Town” as an example of critical performance ethnography.