Kyla Wazana Tompkins

Lecture co-sponsored by the American Culture Studies Program (Arts & Sciences) and the Law, Culture & Identity Initiative (School of Law) at Washington University in St. Louis

Kyla Wazana Tompkins is author of Racial Indigestion: Eating Bodies in the Nineteenth Century (NYU Press, 2012), an influential book across several disciplines that was recently awarded the Lora Romero First Book Publication Prize from the American Studies Association. Tompkins is a former food writer and restaurant critic. She writes about food, eating, sexuality, race and nineteenth- and twentieth-century literature, culture, film and dance.

Lecture

“Hearty and Happy and with a Lively Yeasty Soul: Feeling Right in Louisa May Alcott’s The Candy Country”

Thursday, October 10, 2013, 4:00 p.m.
Danforth University Center, Room 276
Reception to follow in the DUC Formal Lounge.

Workshop

“Joel Chandler Harris’ Biopolitical Fictions”

Friday, October 11, 2013, 12:00 p.m.
Danforth University Center, Room 276

(Contact AMCS@artsci.wustl.edu if you would like to attend this workshop. Limited seating remains, WUSTL students and faculty given priority.)

From Racial Indigestion:

“Perhaps the most famous representation of the black body as an edible object in U.S. literature takes place in Hawthorne’s 1851 House of the Seven Gables...by designating the eating of one body by another to be cannibalism (and thereby worthy of repugnance), we acknowledge the likeness between the subject and object, establishing both positions to be, in the very least, circus-mirror images of each other's humanity.”