

# "The Suicide Archive: A Book Talk"

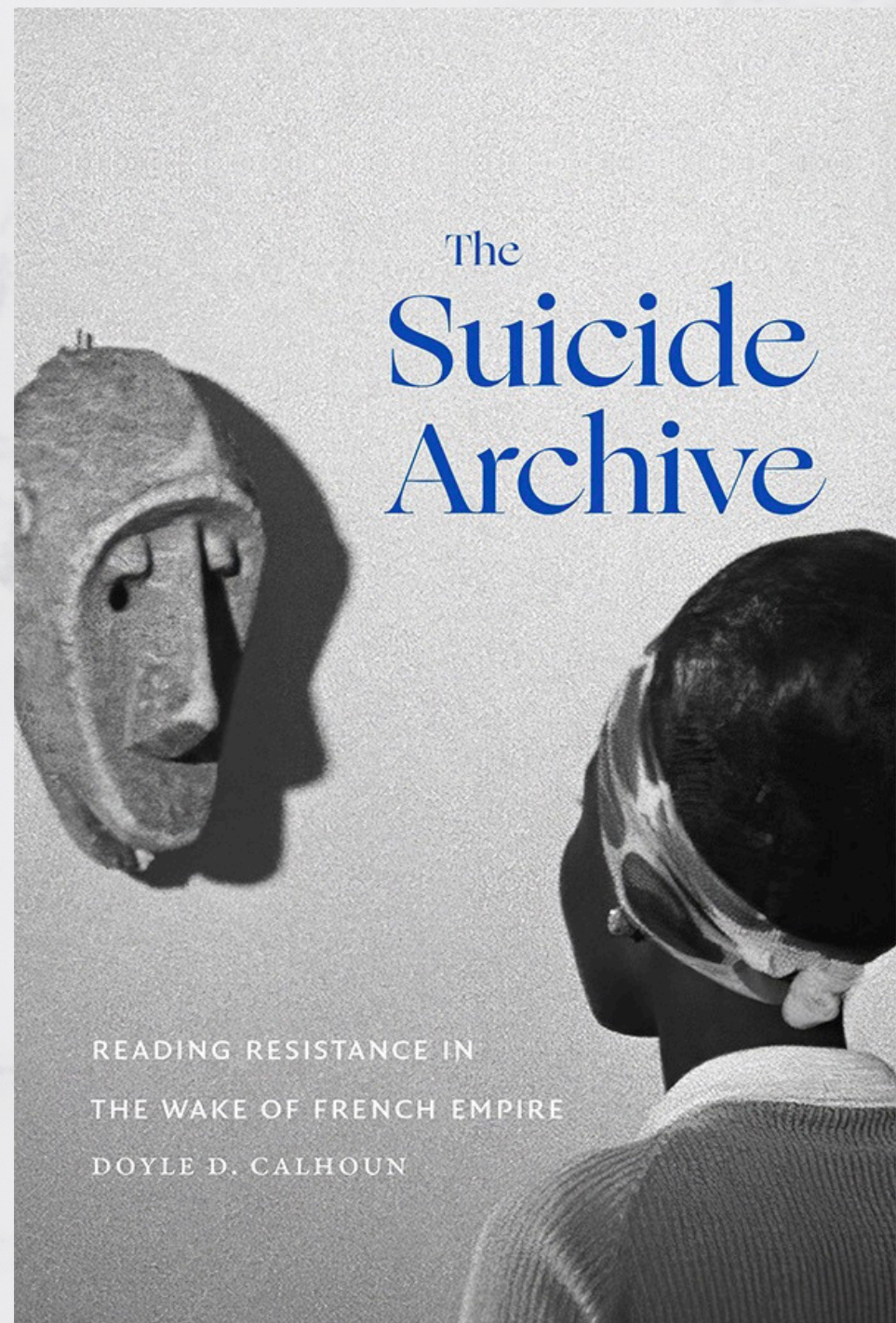
Thursday, September 19, 2025

Rittenberg Lounge - Mather Hall

Common Hour

From the time of slavery to the Algerian war for independence to the "Arab Spring," people have responded to enslavement, colonization and oppression through acts of suicide. Though often obscured in colonial archives, self-killing has long been at the center of African and Caribbean engagements with the colonial past. Reading across literature, film, oral history, archival documents, legal history, and scientific texts, *The Suicide Archive* (2024) shows how creative works (literature, film, visual art, performance) preserve powerful histories of resistance and loss, offering an innovative reading of African, Caribbean, French and global literary history.

*A note about content:* This talk involves discussion of suicide, specifically in the contexts of slavery, colonization and empire. Please use your discretion and take care if you decide to listen. If you or someone you know is struggling or in crisis, you are not alone. You can reach out to the National Suicide and Crisis Lifeline by dialing 988 or contact the Crisis Text Line by texting TALK to 741741.



## Dr. Doyle Calhoun

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Doyle Calhoun is University Assistant Professor of Francophone Postcolonial Studies at the University of Cambridge and a Fellow of Peterhouse, where his research and teaching focuses on the literature and cinemas of West Africa and the Caribbean. He is the author of *The Suicide Archive: Reading Resistance in the Wake of French Empire* (Duke UP, 2024), forthcoming in French as *Mourir pour n'être à personne* (with La Découverte). From 2022–2024 he was an Assistant Professor of Francophone Studies at Trinity College and received his PhD from Yale in 2022.