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The American Library in Paris

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Presenting *Critical Conversations*

Dear Library supporter,

We are thrilled to announce the launch of a new program at the Library. *Critical Conversations* is an expert-led discussion series that will allow Library members to delve deeper into pressing topics. We believe open debate is vital to a healthy democracy, and the aim of these series is to foster a sense of community while also promoting civic discourse and engagement. Our hope is that participants will join us to educate and challenge themselves—through reading and dialogue.

We are kicking off the program in November with the timely issue of “Race in America” led by Dr. Tarani Merriweather, who holds a PhD in Social-Organizational Psychology from Columbia University in New York. Dr. Merriweather's academic research and teaching applies an intersectional lens to the study of gender and leadership. She also has a range of international experience moderating community dialogues surrounding these issues. She became acquainted with

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Please visit our [webpage](#) to find out more about *Critical Conversations* and "Race in America." This 3-part series will be hosted on Zoom and is limited to Library members.

DATES

Meeting weekly in November, via Zoom, on Thursdays 19h00-20h30 Paris/Central European Time. Meeting dates are 5, 12, and 19 November.

the Library when she led our panel "Black ou Noir(e): A Public Panel on Black Expats and Belonging in Paris" event in February 2020.

Critical Conversations participants will attend a series of three sessions, ninety minutes each, and will be furnished with short readings in advance. Dr. Merriweather will open each session with a brief lecture, then guide a group discussion. The pilot series will be held virtually over Zoom, so Library members can join us from all over the world. Series size will be capped at thirty participants to encourage meaningful participation across the group.

Critical Conversations grew out of the Library's Strategic Planning process and is generously underwritten by the Heather and Robert Keane Family Foundation. We heard feedback from you that you wanted more opportunities for continuing education and more occasions to meet and exchange with fellow readers. Programs Manager Catherine Olien is spearheading the series, and we can't wait to hear your thoughts about the offering. We hope you [sign up now](#) and let us know what you think.

Sincerely yours,

Audrey Chapuis, Director

[Register Now](#)



“I've been eager to have this critical conversation with the community in Paris for some time. More than a debate or a discussion, I aim to foster the creation of knowledge with participants through dialogue. Together, we will engage race critically in the United States, past, present, and future. While we will not be able to touch on everything in three sessions, it is my hope that this series starts a larger conversation that will continue.”

—Dr. Tarani Merriweather, Group Leader

HOW TO JOIN

Advance payment and registration is required.

Regular rate: 50€ per participant

Reduced rate: 25€ (exclusively for students, seniors, and unemployed.)

Please fill out [the registration form](#) if you would like to reserve a spot.

QUESTIONS

programs@americanlibraryinparis.org



“Critical Conversations is an exciting addition to the Library’s programming—a new initiative to greet a new cultural moment. We hope participants will enjoy the opportunity for sustained engagement with themes central to our contemporary experience. The series will provide our community with a forum to exchange, trade insights, and grow together. Participants can expect to be stretched and enriched through reading new material curated by experts, interrogating bias and belief, and participating in group learning exercises.”

—Dr. Catherine Olien, Programs Manager

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RENEW

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