

The Department of French and Italian & The Department of Comparative Literature
The Francophone Research and Resource Center

PRESENT

PROJECT *BANLIEUE*

FRENCH PERI/URBAN CULTURES AND CRISES

Interdisciplinary reflections on the 2005 riots in France
and the dynamics of contemporary banlieue cultural life

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JAN 30TH THH170 NOON

FREE LUNCH FOR THOSE WHO RSVP TO

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RIOTS AS UNARTICULATED JUSTICE MOVEMENTS

The revolts of autumn 2005 once again manifested the tensions in the social housing neighbourhoods located at the peripheral areas of French cities-the *banlieues*. They were, like previous revolts, triggered by the deaths of young inhabitants, where the police, once again, was implicated. Like previous revolts, they mainly took place in the disadvantaged social housing neighbourhoods of *banlieues*. Unlike previous revolts, however, they were suppressed by exceptionally repressive measures by the French state. They not only revealed once again the geographical dimension of inequalities, discrimination and police violence, but also the contemporary transformations of the French state along increasingly authoritarian and exclusionary lines. Seen against this backdrop, there is little to suggest that they were 'ethnic' or religious uprisings. Nor were they just pointless looting and burning. They were, this paper argues, unarticulated justice movements.

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