



Center for Research on Race and Ethnicity in Society
Bloomington, Indiana



Department of History
Bloomington, Indiana

CRRES Speaker Series: “Presumed Criminal - Black Youth and the Justice System in Postwar New York York”



Carl Suddler, Ph.D.

Department of History, Emory University

Time: Thursday, February 27, 4:00pm

Place: Persimmon Room, IMU

In the mid-20th century, the US justice system began to focus on punishment rather than rehabilitation. In turn, the juvenile justice system shifted its priorities from saving delinquent youth to controlling crime.

In New York City, increased state surveillance of predominantly black communities compounded arrest rates during the post-WWII period, providing justification for tough-on-crime policies. Questionable police practices, like stop-and-frisk, combined with media sensationalism, cemented the belief that black youth were the primary cause for concern. The stakes were clear: race would continue to be the crucial determinant in American notions of crime and delinquency, and condemned black youths would continue to confront the overwhelming power of the state.

Carl Suddler is an assistant professor in the Department of History at Emory University. Suddler’s scholarship - focused on Black American history and the intersection of youth, race, and crime - is committed to better understanding the consequences of inequity in the United States. His new book, *Presumed Criminal: Black Youth and the Justice System in Postwar New York* points to a critical shift in the carceral state which increasingly criminalized black youths and tethered their lives to the justice system. Copies of the book will be available for purchase and signing by Dr. Suddler after the event.