Winter 2019 Colloquium Series

Date: Wednesday February 13
Time: 3:15 – 5PM
Location: Social Sciences 1, room 261

Dr. Noelle Stout

Associate Professor of Anthropology,
New York University

Toward a Feminist Theory of Predatory Bureaucracy

More than 14 million U.S. homeowners lost their homes following the 2008 mortgage crash. Wall Street lenders executed these mass bank seizures through seemingly benign administrative systems that lost paperwork, promoted campaigns of misinformation, and relied on algorithms that wrongly evicted homeowners, all the while pilfering billions of dollars from the US Treasury. Drawing on research in California’s hard-hit Sacramento Valley, Stout ventures into the homes of families on the brink of eviction and the byzantine call centers of corporate lenders to show how predatory bureaucracies fused Wall Street capitalist interests with masculinist technological tools, depoliticizing the mass dispossession of a feminized and racialized domestic realm.