

# Political Theories of Membership

Winter, 2022

Political Science 490

W 9-11:50

Professor Jacqueline Stevens

Featuring a Conversation with Glen Coulthard, author of *Red Skin/White Masks*



Why do all political societies use birth (*jus sanguinis* or *jus soli*) as the paradigmatic decision rule for membership? What are the implications of this decision rule for attachments of nationality, ethnicity, race, and religion? What is the intellectual history of "the nation" and the claims that it is modern? Is the nation an inherently toxic form of membership that produces unjustified exclusions at best and genocide at worst? Or is there a form of national belonging that cultivates empathy and mutual care among economically and otherwise unequal members, such that the nation may and should be preserved but should be isolated from its adverse effects?