

RUTGERS ANTHROPOLOGY GRADUATE STUDENT ASSOCIATION
PRESENTS

THE SHEEPDOG WHO GRIED WOLF



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Abstract: This paper explores emerging enclosures (Harney & Moten 2013) that belong to the mechanics of “gendered/racist warfare” (Rodriguez 2020, Burton 2019) in a southern New Jersey town with five prisons. It teases apart both the ideological underpinnings and the material interests at play in a public “Sheepdog Seminars” training session—an event that was coordinated by the local prosecutor’s offices, police departments, and numerous Christian church congregations in the region. It shows how these three distinct institutions are merging into a formidable power bloc that seeks to control the capacity to dictate who may live and who must be shot and killed. It concludes by reflecting on ethnography’s potential role in identifying and interpreting the growing forms of white supremacist warfare working to seize power across the world today.

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