What does it mean to be different? Many of us are raised to accept, embrace and even celebrate the differences among us as human beings. Yet, very few of us are ever asked to consider what difference actually is and why some people are considered different, while others are not. Just as importantly, the processes of encountering and negotiating difference in our daily lives is often left under-examined. In this lecture, Dr. Gallon will suggest that difference is a highly politicized concept that offers all of us opportunities to create social change on a wide range of issues locally, nationally and globally.

Dr. Kim Gallon is an assistant professor of history at Purdue University and the founder and director of the Black Press Research Collective. She is also a visiting scholar at the Center for Africana Studies at Johns Hopkins University. Dr. Gallon’s research focuses on discourses and representations of gender and sexuality in the early twentieth century Black Press. She is completing a manuscript titled, “We Are Becoming a Tabloid Race: The Politics of Gender and Sexuality in the Black Press, 1925-1945.” Her work has been published in History Compass, Journalism History, Transformations, Pennsylvania History and Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography. Her writing on Black popular culture is featured on the “Popular Romance Project” web site (http://popularromanceproject.org).

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