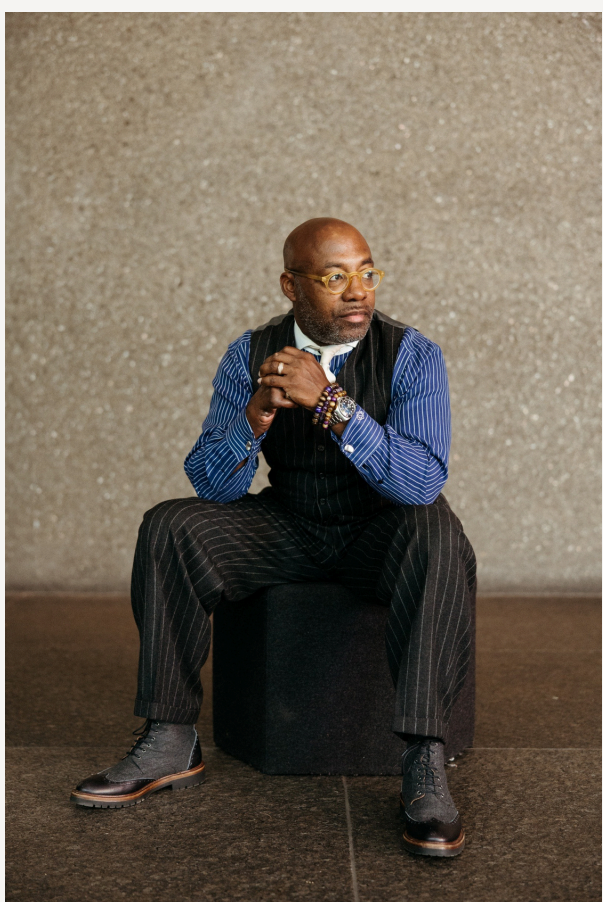


**Guest Talk: Prof. Dr. Michael Sawyer (University of Pittsburgh, USA)**

# **Black Event Theory: What the Image Cannot Hold**



**This lecture introduces Black Event Theory through its encounter with image, representation, and archive: the places where the Black Event becomes most legible and most elusive at once. A central argument of BET is that aesthetic practices and the objects produced are, vis-à-vis themselves, primary philosophical arguments that can be examined without the mediation of recognized disciplines.**

**We will move through a series of concrete instances drawn from literature and visual culture: Toni Morrison's manipulation of narrative time as philosophical method; the structural role of masking in diaspora aesthetics; and the ways the archive reaches for an Event it was designed not to preserve. Students will encounter BET not as abstract doctrine but as a reading practice; one that transforms how we see what images do and do not show.**

**June 23, 2026, 16 Uhr (s.t.),  
American Studies Foyer,  
TU Dortmund**

