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Variants in the Machine. Plots on the Plantation. Beauty in the Ashes

ABSTRACT

In this paper, I use the frame of Relation to take up the question of resistance under black oppression. That is to say, I aim to theorize resistance, and black struggle toward freedom as very much *in relation to* a pervasive context of racial oppression. I start here because – and this is the position I hope to sufficiently establish – it repositions our sight toward the entanglements (so not just mere relations, but *entangled* relations) between black freedom struggle and what that struggle struggles against. It is at these sites of entanglements that we find both the *effects* of racial oppression, *and also* the emergence of something akin to an ‘otherwise’ – a refusal of that oppression, resistance against it, an ‘otherwise’ as practice that transcends possibilities conditioned by an algorithm of necropolitical black death. In other words, in orienting our sights toward these messy sites of entanglement, black freedom shows up not as something perpetually thwarted in the present, delayed, or not yet. Rather, we find effectuations of black freedom (in the mode of struggle, resistance, refusals) ‘in the now’ of necropolitical antiblackness itself.