Christina Sharpe is Associate Professor of English, Africana, American and Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies at Tufts University. She was Director of American Studies from 2009-2013. Her first book is Monstrous Intimacies: Making Post-Slavery Subjects and it was published by Duke University Press in August 2010. She is currently working on In the Wake: On Blackness and Being. She has published recently in American Literary History, Journal of Southern History, Social Text Blog, and Lateral and has pieces forthcoming in The Black Scholar’s Special Issue on Black Studies, Black Studies Papers, and Ethical Confrontations with Anti-Blackness: Africana Studies in the 21st Century.

This presentation will introduce work from Sharpe’s forthcoming book, In the Wake: On Blackness and Being. Central to In the Wake are questions of antiblackness, the longue durée of Atlantic chattel slavery, and the ongoing effects of Black Being in the aftermath of slavery. Sharpe theorizes these effects as the “wake,” and rather than looking for political, juridical, or philosophical answers to the ontological negation of Black subjects, In the Wake, via the metaphor of the wake, explores what it means to inhabit that “zone of non Being” within and after slavery’s denial of Black humanity.