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The White House Office of Management and Budget has directed federal agencies to “identify all contracts or other agency spending related to any training on ‘critical race theory.’” In a recent speech President Trump has threatened to withhold federal funding from schools that use *The New York Times Magazine’s* 1619 Project in their pedagogy. Clearly, these messages target not only critical race theory and the 1619 Project specifically, but Black Studies, Indigenous Studies, and Ethnic Studies writ large. The ACLA takes this opportunity to avow the paramount importance of these projects and disciplines and to pledge our strong support to everything that is associated with “critical race theory.” Further, we observe that the White House is attempting to do the impossible. There is no study worthy of the name that dispenses with “critical race theory”; there can be no study of the United States to which slavery and settler colonialism are not central; and attempts to persecute these studies only underline their integral nature to any study whatsoever. The ACLA commits to expanding institutional space for these targeted movements and studies, both specifically and in the broadest sense.

Signed,

The Executive Committee of the American Comparative Literature Association


