

Title: Half American: The Epic Story of African Americans Fighting World War II at Home and Abroad
Speaker: Dr. Matthew Delmont
Date: 25 January 2023
Time: 1200-1315
Where: Hybrid LOO, C-138 & via Zoom
POC: Prof. Ron Oard

Synopsis:

This presentation summarizes Dr. Delmont's recent book on the experience of African Americans during World War II. It starts with the early recognition by many African Americans of the threat posed by fascism in Europe. It includes the contributions of African Americans who served in the military Services as well as those working in the defense industry. It also covers the experiences of Service veterans upon their return from overseas, and their involvement in the civil rights movements in the decades following World War II. It also carries a number of lessons for today, ranging from how well historical writings have covered African American contributions to the war effort and some of the lasting legacies from the war and its aftermath that the United States is still dealing with domestically.

Bio:



Matthew F. Delmont is the Sherman Fairchild Distinguished Professor of History at Dartmouth. Originally from Minneapolis, Minnesota, he received his Ph.D. and master's degrees from Brown University, and earned his BA from Harvard University. An expert on African American history and the history of civil rights, he was awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship and National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Public Scholar Award to support research for his book *Half American* that was published by Viking Books in October 2022. He is also the author of four previous books: *Black Quotidian: Everyday History in African American Newspapers* (Stanford University Press, 2019); *Making Roots: A Nation Captivated* (University of California Press, 2016); *Why Busing Failed: Race, Media, and the National Resistance to School Desegregation* (UC Press, 2016); and *The Nicest Kids in Town: American Bandstand, Rock 'n' Roll, and the Struggle for Civil Rights in 1950s Philadelphia* (UC Press, 2012).