The Department of Childhood Studies Welcomes Dr. Jessica R. Calvanico

Dr. Jessica R. Calvanico is a Postdoctoral Research Fellow with the Institute for the Study of Global Racial Justice in the Department of Childhood Studies at Rutgers University. She completed her Ph.D. at University of California, Santa Cruz in the Feminist Studies Department, with designated emphasis in Visual Studies and Critical Race & Ethnic Studies. As an interdisciplinary scholar, Dr. Calvanico’s research considers histories of girlhood in the U.S. and the establishment of the juvenile justice system. With a regional focus on New Orleans and the U.S. South, she is interested in the relationship between legal making of U.S. girlhood and the criminal justice system. Her forthcoming article, "Arson Girls, Match-Strikers, and Firestarters: A Reflection on Rage, Racialization, and the Carcerality of Girlhood," explores the figure of the girl arsonist who burns down carceral institutions; it will appear in the Winter 2021/2022 issue of Signs: A Journal of Women in Culture and Society. Currently, she is working on a monograph on New Orleans's House of the Good Shepherd, a Catholic reformatory in the Jim Crow South for "sexually delinquent" girls of all races, ethnicities, religions, and nationalities.