In this seminar I present material from my current book project that explores my embodied, subjective experience of becoming both an anthropologist and a capoeirista, or practitioner of capoeira, an Afro-Brazilian combat game. Capoeira was created in Brazil by male, enslaved Africans several hundred years ago as a form of cultural resistance, physical and creative expression, and sociality. As an African-inspired practice, capoeira was perceived as a social threat and outlawed in the 19th century. Yet, by the mid 20th century, due to changing Brazilian racial ideology, capoeira became celebrated as a manifestation of brasilidade or national culture. By the 21st century, capoeira had become a major global export, practiced by men, women and children around the world. My own experience in capoeira, from novice to instructor, spans the last thirty years and bears witness to the practice's transformations, particularly its globalization, professionalization and re-gendering. In this seminar I present a theoretical concept, creative convivência, that I am working with to understand both the transformations a practitioner undergoes in incorporating the capoeira habitus, as well as transformations in the practice itself. Convivência, (which I keep in the Portuguese to capture its polyvalence) is an emic term capoeiristas use to describe their lives in capoeira. It conveys “co-existence” or “being-with” and, I argue, occurs on multiple levels: in the intercorporeal dialogue between two bodies in the roda (the ring in which capoeira is played); in the day-to-day togetherness of capoeiristas in a group; and in the growing “imagined community” of the global capoeira network.

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While fraught with identity politics, debates over authenticity and other tensions that often accompany local expressive practices that have gone global, capoeira’s *creative convivência* Nonetheless allows for productive spaces of encounter with others. Time and space permitting, there will be a demonstration-workshop portion of this seminar in which the audience is invited to participate in learning some of the music and movement of capoeira. Comfortable clothes to move in are recommended!

**Nota biografica**
Katya Wesolowski is a lecturing fellow in Cultural Anthropology and Dance at Duke University. As an anthropologist and dancer, Dr. Wesolowski is interested in the interrelationship between bodies, cultural practices and politics. Her research focuses on Brazil and the African Diaspora; expressive culture and globalization; the intersection of play, sport and dance; learning communities, social inequalities and identities. She is also concerned with the methodological and pedagogical challenges of researching, writing and teaching about creativity, embodied knowledge and ethnography. Her current work centers on the Afro-Brazilian game/dance/fight of capoeira, which she has also practiced and taught for over twenty years. Recent publications include “Professionalizing Capoeira: the politics of play in Twenty-first-Century Brazil”, “From ‘Moral Disease’ to ‘National Sport’: Race, Nation and Capoeira in Brazil,” and forthcoming, “Imagining Brazil in Africa: capoeira’s transatlantic roots and routes” and "Baile Funk and Kuduro: embodied (dis)articulations of national belonging in Brazil and Angola.”

**Suggested Readings on Capoeira; Performance and Race in Brazil; ethnography of creativity/dance/sport/embodied knowledge.**