In a historical moment when the news media has repeatedly displayed the wanton killing of black men, the connection between African American identity and trauma seems especially salient. Sheldon George’s talk, “Trauma and Race,” will work through Lacanian psychoanalytic notions of subjectivity to ground an understanding of African American identity as mediated by social trauma. It will address, in particular, the 2012 Florida shooting of 17 year old Jordan Davis by Michael Dunn, a white male whose excessive response to the loud rap music played by Davis and his friends demonstrates a Lacanian understanding of jouissance, or the other’s mode of enjoyment, as a root source of notions of racial alterity. The talk will discuss how this jouissance, bound to fantasies of race, often structures both racism and African American identity around acts of violence and trauma, inducing African Americans to embrace willfully the very racial identities against which this violence is directed.