This talk offers an exploration of what it meant to move under “cramped conditions” for Black Americans and their compatriots during the 1950s and 60s, a violent era of racial discrimination and segregation in the United States. As the example of the Freedom Rides shows, these conditions included both moments of closure and entrapment determined by the rule of law and “mob rule” as well as acts of resistance resulting from a century-long legacy of mobilization. Professor Lüthi provides a corrective to the overemphasis on metaphors of fluidity, speed and openness with respect to a moment of presumably unbounded mobility in 20th century US history.

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