Dr. Nora Krinitsky is a historian of African American history, urban history, and the history of the carceral state. During this lunchbox seminar, Nora will provide an overview of her research as well as a discussion of the article she is completing this year, which examines the Chicago NAACP’s interwar legal crusade against police violence. The litigious work of the Chicago branch worked to frame police brutality narrowly as a racialized civil rights violation, despite the fact that police violence in the city was so widespread as to be tantamount to department policy. The unusually high burden of proof faced by those who did lodge complaints demonstrated state officials’ commitment to the decriminalization of individual violent cops as well as the preservation of the structural violence embedded in Chicago law enforcement, patterns echoed in myriad cases of police violence today.