Relevant Books


This volume explores philosophical issues and problems in their relationship to Black Studies to show that philosophy is not a sterile intellectual pursuit, but a critical tool to gathering knowledge about the Black experience. Hence, the author demonstrates how a Marxist philosophical perspective offers a productive and fruitful way of overcoming the limitations of idealism, and shows that the foundational arguments of cultural idealism are based on a series of analytical and historical misapprehensions. In turn, the author argues for the centrality of the Black working class—both men and women—to Black Studies.


This interdisciplinary volume of essays explores the role of traditional culture in the evolving expressions, practices, and images of race and ethnicity in the digital age. The work examines cultural forms in exclusively digital environments as well as in the hybrid environments created by mobile technologies, where real life becomes overlaid with digital content. Hence the questions of how do people use the new expressive features of digital technologies to experience, represent, discuss, and debate racial and ethnic identity; how have digital technologies or digital spaces become racialized; how have the existing vernacular traditions, or folklore, surrounding identity been reshaped in digital spaces; and how have new traditions emerged? Thus, the book reveals how “memes” and “viral videos” represent, discuss, or negotiate ideas about racial and ethnic identity; discusses how the human body is racialized in digital image, video, and photography, and how technologies and digital spaces themselves come to be racialized; examines the interplay of digital narratives with political movements for civil rights and social justice; and explores patterns and practices of racist and xenophobic exclusion in both online and offline spaces.


This book offers a new approach to reading the cultural memory of Africa in African American fiction from the post-Civil Rights era and in Black British fiction emerging in the wake of Thatcherism. The critical period between the decline of the Civil Rights Movement and the dawn of the twenty-first century saw a deep contrast in the distinctive narrative approaches displayed by diverse African diaspora literatures in negotiating the crisis of representing the past. Through a series of close readings of literary fiction, this work examines how the cultural memory of Africa is employed in diverse and specific negotiations of narrative time, in order to engage and shape contemporary identity and citizenship. By addressing the practice of “remembering” Africa, the book argues for the signal importance of the African diaspora’s literary interventions, and locates new paradigms for cultural identity in contemporary times.


This work employs the titular concept to illuminate how Ifō/Orisha practices informed by Yoruba cosmology shape local, national, and transnational belonging in African world communities in Trinidad and beyond. Drawing on almost two decades of fieldwork in Trinidad, the author outlines how the political activism and social upheaval of the 1970s set the stage for African world religions to enter mainstream Trinidadian society to establish how the postcolonial performance of Ifō/Orisha practices in Trinidad fosters a sense of belonging that invigorates its practitioners to work toward freedom, equality, and social justice. Furthermore, the book demonstrates how spirituality is inextricable from the political project of Black liberation, and thus, illustrates how Ifō/Orisha beliefs and practices offer Trinidadians the means to strengthen belonging throughout the African world community to access past generations, heal historical wounds, and envision a de-colonial future.

In this book, the author posits that the Black male should be conceptualize as a victim, oppressed by his sex, therefore in a corrective of sorts, it offers a concept of Black males that could challenge the existing accounts of Black men and boys desiring the power of white men who oppress them that has been proliferated throughout academic research across disciplines. Further, the author argues that Black men struggle with death and suicide, as well as abuse and rape, and thus, their *genred* existence deserves study and theorization as the book also offers intellectual, historical, sociological, and psychological evidence that the analysis of patriarchy offered by mainstream feminism (including Black feminism) does not yet fully understand the role that homoeroticism, sexual violence, and vulnerability play in the deaths and lives of Black males.


This book takes a fresh perspective on Pan Africanism that reveals the most important moments of relevance in pan African history, while keeping its eyes firmly focused on the future, as a path for African unification is identified with a specific endpoint for its achievement. The book is built around addresses by the author given to audiences of African people born in Africa, as well as those of African heritage born in America and the Caribbean. Hence, the strategic goal of the book is to present a succinct and powerful case that will serve to inspire and ignite a transatlantic pan African movement of young people who will see it as their prime directive, and generational mission, and thus, to bring a united Africa into political existence.

This volume examines the punitive and disciplinary technologies and ideologies embraced by ruling white elites in nineteenth-century Barbados and Jamaica to look at the meanings inscribed on the raced, gendered, and classed bodies on the receiving end of punishment. Thus, the author uses theories of the body to detail the ways colonial states and their agents appropriated physicality to debase the black body, assert the inviolability of the white body, and demarcate the social boundaries between them. Noting marked demographic and geographic differences between Jamaica and Barbados, as well as any number of changes within the separate economic, political, and social trajectories of each island, the author also finds that societal infractions by the subaltern populations of both islands brought on draconian forms of punishments aimed at maintaining the socio-racial hierarchy as the investigation ranges across such topics as hair-cropping, the 1836 Emigration Act of Barbados and other punitive legislation, the state reprisals following the 1865 Morant Bay Rebellion in Jamaica, the use of the whip and the treadmill in jails and houses of correction, and methods of surveillance, policing, and limiting free movement.


This book uses an intersectional approach to analyze the impact of the experience of race on Afro-Brazilian political behavior in the cities of Salvador, São Paulo, and Rio de Janeiro. Using a theoretical framework that takes into account racial group attachment and the experience of racial discrimination, it seeks to explain Afro-Brazilian political behavior with a focus on affirmative action policy and Law 10.639 (requiring that African and Afro-Brazilian history be taught in schools).

This is a study of region, race, and gender reveals how we underestimate the South's influence on the formation of Black masculinity at the national level in the U.S. Many negative stereotypes of Black men--often contradictory ones--have emerged from the ongoing historical traumas initiated by enslavement (are Black men emasculated and submissive or hypersexed and violent?), as nostalgic representations of Black men have arisen as well: think of the philosophical, hardworking sharecropper or the abiding, upright preacher; and to complicate matters, the authors says that Black folk themselves appropriate these images for purposes never intended by their (mostly) white progenitors. Starting with such well-known caricatures as the Uncle Tom and the rapist, the author investigates a range of pathologies of Black masculinity that derive ideological force from their associations with the South, and also looks at military policy, Black-liberation discourse, and contemporary rap to argue that they are just some of the instruments by which egregious pathologies of Black masculinity in southern history have been sustained.


This volume is an intergenerational collection of writing from poets, dramatists, musicians, educators, historians and cultural workers and theorists examining the work and influence of Amiri Baraka, hence, a forum in which to examine his poetic and artistic aesthetics of Baraka that bring to the forefront Baraka’s reach as political activist, historian and cultural visionary. The dramatist, novelist and poet, Amiri Baraka is one of the most respected and widely published African-American writers; from the Civil Rights Movement he explored the anger of African-Americans and used his writings as a weapon against racism; he also advocated scientific socialism with his revolutionary inclined poems; his writing career spans over nearly fifty years and has mostly focused on the subjects of Black liberation, and he is often recognized as a key founder of the Black Arts Movement.


This book is a study of the lived experience of African men in Australia and New Zealand. The author employs a relational account of racism which foregrounds how the colonial shaped the contemporary, with the settler states of contemporary Australia and New Zealand having been molded by their colonial histories. Hence, the also examines the changing racial conditions in Australia and New Zealand, inspired by the view that as racial conditions change globally, prevailing racial modalities in these two countries must be reexamined and theory must be developed or revised as appropriate. And specifically, it provides a new theoretical concept with which to understand racism and xenophobia directed at Africans; offers insights into the experience of being African and male in Australia and New Zealand, and it addresses the question of African-ness: a question that has not been well examined in this part of the world.


Since 1996, approximately 30,000 South Sudanese people have immigrated to Australia and New Zealand via humanitarian pathways. This text offers insight into these associated communities' resettlement experiences and provides a broader sociological context in which the South Sudanese diaspora can be seen within global migration studies. The book provides: contemporary research that critically examines the experiences of South Sudanese settlement and its associated successes, concerns and challenges; social, theoretical, historical and policy implications associated with resettlement; and an informed and reflective focus on substantive resettlement issues such as education, health, housing, Australian and customary law, employment, integration and discrimination. The South Sudanese community is one of Australia's fastest growing new populations, and yet there are limited understandings of their experiences, concerns, aspirations and the associated implications for being able to meaningfully participate in Australian and New Zealand public life.

This book argues that the Black Arts Movement's call for Blackness has been misread because most have failed to see the movement's anticipation of the "new black" and "post-black." Hence, Black Post-Blackness compares the Black avant-garde of the 1960s and 1970s Black Arts Movement with its innovative spins of twenty-first century Black aesthetics focused on the 1970s second wave of the Black Arts Movement to show the connections between this final wave of the Black Arts movement and the early years of twenty-first century Black aesthetics to uncover a circle of Black post-Blackness that pivots on the power of anticipation, abstraction, mixed media, the global South, satire, public interiority, and the fantastic. The author is an associate professor of English at Cornell University.


This book reexamines the infrastructure that organized and consolidated Nkrumah’s philosophy into a political program, and thus, it draws on newly available source material to portray an organizational and cultural history of Nkrumahism; taking readers inside bureaucracies, offices, salary structures, and working routines to reconstruct the political and social milieu of the time and portray a range of Ghanaians’ relationships to their country’s unique position in the decolonization process. The author is an assistant professor of history at Smith College.
This work unearths a piece of the colonial archive in Kenya long thought lost, hidden, or destroyed, and thus, its discovery and landmark publication unsettles an already contentious history and prompts fresh examinations of its reverberations in the present. Here, the entire trial transcript is available for the first time, and it includes provocative contributions from leading Mau Mau scholars reflecting on the meaning of the rich documents offered here and the figure of Dedan Kimathi (1920-1957) in a much wider field of historical and contemporary concerns such as the nature of colonial justice; the moral arguments over rebellion, nationalism, and the end of empire; and the complexities of memory and memorialization in contemporary Kenya; perhaps no figure embodied the ambiguities, colonial fears, and collective imaginations of Kenya’s decolonization era more than Dedan Kimathi, the self-proclaimed field marshal of the rebel forces that took to the forests to fight colonial rule in the 1950s as he personified many of the contradictions that the Mau Mau rebellion represented: rebel statesman, literate peasant, modern traditionalist. His capture and trial in 1956, and subsequent execution, for many marked the end of the rebellion and turned Kimathi into a patriotic martyr. The editor is an assistant professor at the University of Toronto.

This book illuminates the horror and injustices of slavery as it tells the true story of the last known survivor of the Atlantic slave enterprise—illegally smuggled from Africa on the last "Black Cargo" ship to arrive in the United States. Based on interviews done in 1927 by Zora Neale Hurston in Plateau, Alabama with ninety-five-year-old Cudjo Lewis (Oluale Kossola). Cudjo was then the only person alive to tell the story of this integral part of history, hence, a firsthand account of the raid that led to his capture and bondage fifty years after the Atlantic slave enterprise was outlawed in the United States. The book illuminates the tragedy of enslavement and one life forever defined by it, offering insight into the pernicious legacy that continues to haunt. In 1931, Hurston returned to Plateau, the African-centric community three miles from Mobile founded by Cudjo and other former people enslaved from the ship he was on. Spending more than three months there, she talked in depth with Cudjo about the details of his life as he shared past—memories from his childhood in Africa, the horrors of being captured and held in a barracoon (barracks used historically for the temporary confinement of the enslaved) for selection by his oppressors, the harrowing experience of the passage to the Western Hemisphere packed with more than 100 other souls aboard the Clotilde, and the years he spent in slavery until the end of the Civil War. The author, Zora Neale Hurston (1891-1960) is considered one of the pre-eminent writers of twentieth-century African-American literature, and she was closely associated with the Harlem Renaissance, during the 1920s.
This work is a special volume on Jean Price-Mars that reassesses the importance of his thought and legacy, and the implications of his ideas in the twenty-first century’s culture of political correctness, the continuing challenge of race and racism, and imperial hegemony in the modern world. Hence, the book explores various dimensions in Price-Mars’ thought and his role as historian, anthropologist, cultural critic, public intellectual, religious scholar, Pan-Africanist, and humanist. The goal of the book is to explore: the contributions of Jean Price-Mars to Haitian history and culture; Price-Mars’ engagement with Western history and the problem of the “racist narrative;” interpret Price-Mars’ connections with Black Internationalism, the Harlem Renaissance, and the Negritude Movement, and to underscore Price-Mars’ contributions to post colonialism, religious studies, Africana Studies, Africology, and Pan-Africanism.

This book is a plea to America to understand what life post-slavery remains like for many African Americans, who are descended from people whose unpaid labor built America, but have had to spend the last century and a half carrying the dual burden of fighting racial injustice and rising above the lowered expectations and hateful bigotry that attempt to keep them shackled to that past. In this collection of essays a chorus of evidence is presented to show that the burden is real. Nikole Hannah-Jones states in the book’s foreword, "despite the fact that black Americans remain at the bottom of every indicator of well-being in this country—from wealth, to poverty, to health, to infant mortality, to graduation rates, to incarceration—we want to pretend that this current reality has nothing to do with the racial caste system that was legally enforced for most of the time the United States of America has existed." Hence, the collection is a response to the false idea that slavery wasn’t so bad and something we should all just "get over."


This book argues that African people are among the earliest inventors and innovators in world history, although enslavement and colonization would force people to believe the contrary and think they are an inferior race that has never invented, and cannot invent anything. Yet, some achievements by African people in ancient times are presented and illustrated in this book, attesting that their genius was actually prolific before the Greeks became accustomed to the arts and sciences. Hence, the book also state that today, African inventors prove that their talent is still at work, and several of their inventions are illustrated in each of the 7 industries developed in the book (from aerospace to robotics), as the manufacturing process of these inventions is outlined per industry, with scenarios that could incite African inventors to work together to industrialize Africa.


This book is a story about a process that is organized and controlled by Black people who are openly declaring that their political project is committed to decolonization and socialism in Jackson, Mississippi; and within this broad strategic and ethical objectives, the project is also an unapologetically committed to self-determination for people of African descent in Mississippi, and the South. Inspired by the rich history of struggle and resistance in Mississippi and committed to a vision (the Jackson-Kush Plan), activists in Jackson are building institutions rooted in community power that combine politics and economic development into an alternative model for change, while addressing real, immediate needs of the people as experiences and analyses is reflected upon that links to a creative power that is unleashed when political struggle is grounded by a worldview freed from the inherent contradictions and limitations of reform liberalism.


This book argues that of all the deities belonging to the Santeria syncretism, seven have been placed in a group of great power as a whole. Hence, the deities are grouped into a set of seven and known as the Seven African Powers. Historically, African people who were brought to the Western hemisphere against their will weren't allowed to openly practice their African religions. Generally, they were forced to convert to Catholicism and show at least outward appearances of practicing the faith of their Spanish oppressors. Yet, behind the veneer of Catholicism, however, African people in Cuba kept their religions alive by "syncretizing" their deities with Christian saints. They knew that the Virgin of Charity was not really Obatalá, but they saw some similarities between the two that allowed them to secretly worship Obatalá while appearing to worship the Virgin.


This textbook uses primary documents and secondary information to highlight the continuities in the experiences of African people, organized into two sections, the first of which addresses the African pre-colonial period, and issues most often associated with institutional slavery, the Civil War, and its aftermath which includes the institutionalization of racism through Jim Crow; African liberation; the formation of the Black Freedom Movement and its goals; neocolonialism; and important considerations and contributions to human rights theory and practice.
This book is a result of Darcy Eveleigh discovering dozens of photographs at The New York Times photo archives—known as the Morgue, and thus, it showcase a collection of photographs and the stories behind them. The photographs and many more, among them include: a 27-year-old Jesse Jackson leading an anti-discrimination rally of in Chicago, Rosa Parks arriving at a Montgomery Courthouse in Alabama a candid behind-the-scenes shot of Aretha Franklin backstage at the Apollo Theater, Ralph Ellison on the streets of his Manhattan neighborhood, the firebombed home of Malcolm X, Myrlie Evans and her children at the funeral of her slain husband, Medgar, a wheelchair-bound Roy Campanella at the razing of Ebbets Field. Hence, the books asks: were the photos—or the people in them—not deemed newsworthy enough; did the images not arrive in time for publication; or were they pushed aside by words at an institution long known as the Gray Lady?

A chronological survey of rap and hip hop from 1973 to the present by one of the most influential rapper in the world; as the leader of the rap group Public Enemy, the author helped create politically and socially conscious hip hop music in the mid-1980s. Based on Chuck D's long-running show on Rapstation.com, this compendium details the most iconic moments and influential songs in the genre's recorded history, from Kurtis Blow's "Christmas Rappin" to The Miseducation of Lauryn Hill to Kendrick Lamar's ground-breaking verse on "Control." Also included are key events in hip hop history, from Grandmaster Flash's first scratch through Tupac's holographic appearance at Coachella. Chuck D received a B.F.A. from Adelphi University (a private, nonsectarian university located in Garden City, in Nassau County, in New York), and in 2013 he received an honorary doctorate from the same university.

This volume is a synthesis of the ideas that have made Afrocentric theorists the leading voices of the African renaissance. Written from the vantage point of the philosophical and political discourse that emerged over the past twenty-five years, this work provides and introduction to African social and cultural criticism as the author engages in the practice of critical thinking by raising fundamental questions about how African people view themselves and the world by tackling the themes of culture, education, social sciences, the university, politics, African unity, and the prospects for peace in Africa. The author is chair and professor of the Africology and African American Studies Department at Temple University, president of Molefi Kete Asante Institute for Afrocentric Studies, guest professor at Zhejiang University, Professor Extraordinarius at the University of South Africa, and editor of the *Journal of Black Studies*.


This work demonstrates how the author was able to use visual arts training in disenfranchised communities as a tool for political and social transformation in South Africa. Using personal experience as a fieldwork for a case study, the author shows how hands-on work in the arts with learners of all ages and backgrounds can contribute to economic stability by developing new skills, as well as enhancing public health and gender justice within communities. Thus, the book present the visual arts as a crucial channel for citizens to find their individual voices and to become agents for change in the arenas of human rights and democracy.