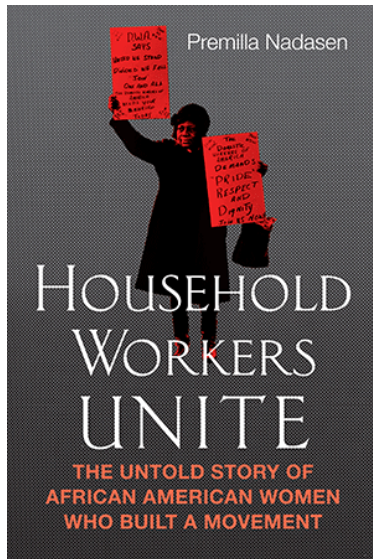


Books of Interest



Nadasen, Premilla. *Household Workers Unite: The Untold Story of African American Women Who Built a Movement*. New York: Beacon Press, 2015, pp.248, ISBN: 0807014508.

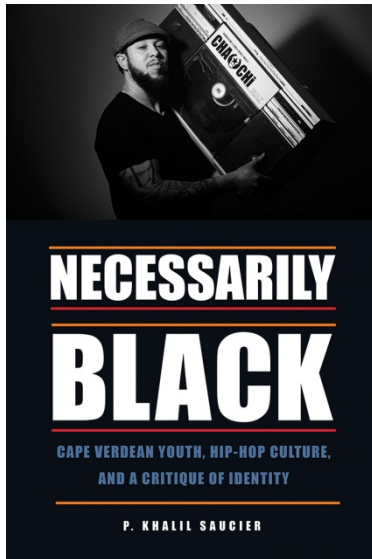
In telling the stories of African American domestic workers, this book resurrects a little-known history of domestic worker activism in the 1960s and 1970s, offering new perspectives on race, labor, feminism, and organizing. Hence, the shatters countless myths and misconceptions about an historically misunderstood workforce to show the women were innovative labor organizers who tirelessly organized on buses and streets across the United States to bring dignity and legal recognition to their occupation. Dismissed by mainstream labor as “unorganizable,” African American household workers developed unique strategies for social change and formed unprecedented alliances with activists in both the women’s rights and the Black

freedom movements. Using storytelling as a form of activism and as means of establishing a collective identity as workers, these women proudly declared, “We refuse to be your mummies, nannies, aunties, uncles, girls, and handmaidens any longer.”



Edozie, Rita Kiki and Curtis Stokes, eds. *Malcolm X's Michigan Worldview: An Exemplar for Contemporary Black Studies*. East Lansing, MI: Michigan State University Press, 2015, pp.316, ISBN: 9781611861624.

This book responds to questions about Malcolm X, presenting him in an iconography way in order to deepen an understanding of African descendent peoples’ experiences through advanced research and disciplinary study. Hence, as a Black Studies reader, it uses the biography of Malcolm X to interrogate key aspects of the Black world experience and contribute to the intellectual expansion of Africology as the book presents Malcolm as a Black subject who represents, symbolizes, and associates meaning within Black/Africana Studies.



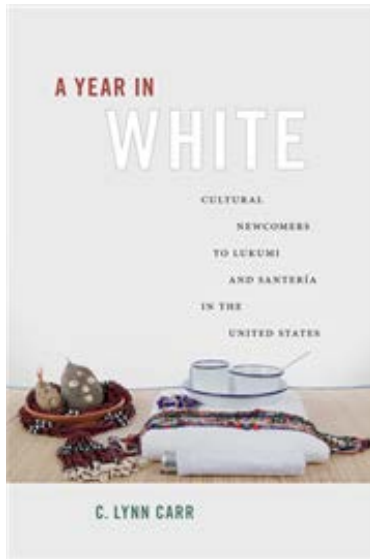
Saucier, P. Khalil. *Necessarily Black: Cape Verdean Youth, Hip-Hop Culture, and a Critique of Identity*. East Lansing, MI: Michigan State University Press, 2015, pp.134, ISBN: 1611861683.

This work is an ethnographic account of second-generation Cape Verdean youth identity in the United States in a theoretical attempt to broaden and complicate current discussions about race and racial identity. Thus, the book grapples with the performance, embodiment, and nuances of racialized identities in empirical contexts and looks into the durability and (in)flexibility of race and racial discourse through an imbricated and multidimensional understanding of racial identity and racial positioning. In doing this, the author examines how Cape Verdean youth negotiate their identity within the popular fabrication of “multiracial America”, and explores how Blackness has come to be lived by Cape Verdean youth in everyday life and how racialization feeds back into the experience of these youth classified as Black through a matrix of social and material settings. And further, the book examines how ascriptions of Blackness and forms of Black popular culture inform subjectivities, and also, it examines hip-hop culture to see how it is used as a site where new (and old) identities of being, becoming, and belonging are fashioned and reworked.



Vega, Marta Moreno, Alba Marinievas and Yvette Modestín, eds. *Women Warriors of the Afro-Latina Diaspora*. Huston, TX: Arte Publico Press, 2012, pp.248, ISBN: 978-1-55885-746-9.

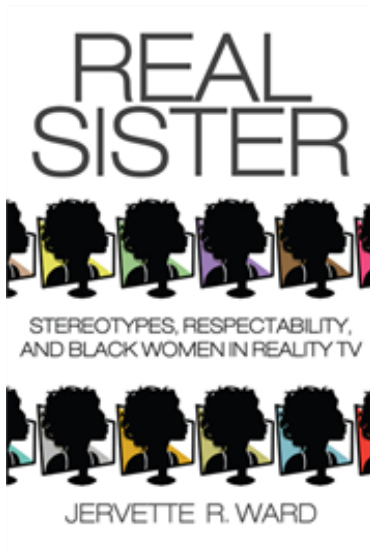
In this book, Latina women of African descent from all over Latin America—Brazil, the Dominican Republic, Haiti, Panama, Puerto Rico and Venezuela share their stories and write about the African diaspora and issues such as colonialism, oppression and disenfranchisement. The contributors span a range of professions, from artists to grass-roots activists, scholars and elected officials, each engaged in her community as they all use their positions to advocate for justice, racial equality and cultural equity. In their introduction, the editors write that these stories provide insight into the conditions that have led Afro-Latinas to challenge systems of inequality, including the machismo that is still prominent in Spanish-speaking cultures. Hence, the book is also a look at the legacy of more than 400 years of African enslavement in the Americas.



Carr, C. Lynn. *A Year in White: Cultural Newcomers to Lukumi and Santería in the United States*. New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press, 2015, pp.256, ISBN: 978-0-8135-7120-1.

In her intimate investigation of the “year in white,” the author draws on fifty-two in-depth interviews via an online survey of nearly two hundred others, and almost a decade of her own ethnographic fieldwork, gathering stories that allow one to see how cultural newcomers and natives thought, felt, and acted with regard to their initiation. Hence, she documents how during the *iyawo* year, the ritual slowly transforms the initiate’s identity. And she also shows that this year-long religious ritual—which is carried out even as the *iyawo* goes about daily life—offers new insight into religion in general, suggesting that the sacred is not separable from the profane and indeed that religion shares an ongoing dynamic relationship with the realities of everyday life,

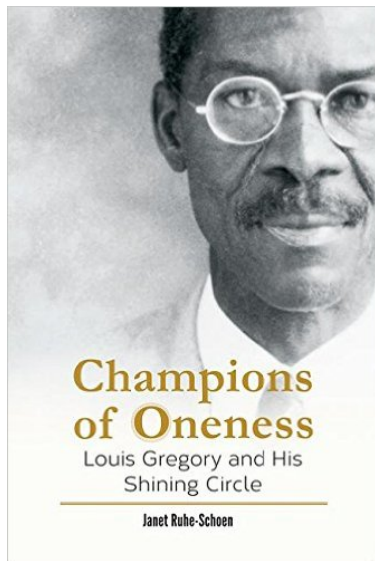
thus the book offers insight the Afro-Cuban Lukumi religious tradition, more commonly known in the United States as Santería.



Ward, Jervette R., ed. *Real Sister: Stereotypes, Respectability, and Black Women in Reality TV*. New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press, 2015, pp.208, ISBN: 978-0-8135-75070.

Reality shows with predominantly Black casts have often been criticized for their negative representation of African American women as loud, angry, and violent. Yet even as these programs appear to be rehashing old stereotypes of Black women, the critiques of them are arguably problematic in their own way, as the notion of “respectability” has historically been used to police Black women’s behaviors. Thus, this work is devoted to the issue of how Black women are depicted on reality television. The book’s ten contributors (Black female scholars from a variety of disciplines) provide a host of perspectives, while considering everything from *Basketball Wives* to *Say Yes to the Dress*. As regular viewers of reality television, these scholars are able to note

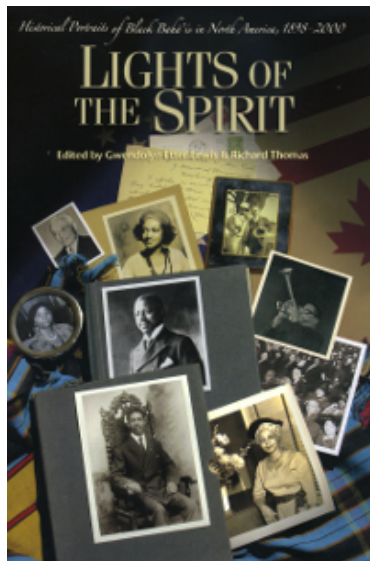
that the genre presents positive images of Black womanhood, even as they catalog a litany of stereotypes about race, class, and gender that it tends to reinforce.



Ruhe-Schoen, Janet. *Champions of Oneness: Louis Gregory and His Shining Circle*. Wilmette, IL: Bahá'í Distribution Service, 2015, pp.282, ISBN: 978-1-61851-081-5.

Focused on the years 1898–1921, this book portrays the lives of a handful of brilliant pioneers of race amity in the United States who gave everything they could to promote the principle of the oneness of humanity. The thread common among each of their lives was the Bahá'í Faith. Many of them had the fortune of meeting Abdu'l-Bahá' (the eldest son of Bahá'u'lláh, the founder of the Bahá'í Faith), and would place his guidance and counsel at the center of their efforts. At great personal sacrifice, these early Bahá'ís traveled extensively to share the teachings of their new found faith, and often were faced with severe challenges from those who were resistant to change. Louis Gregory (1874-1951) was an African-American attorney; he earned a law degree from

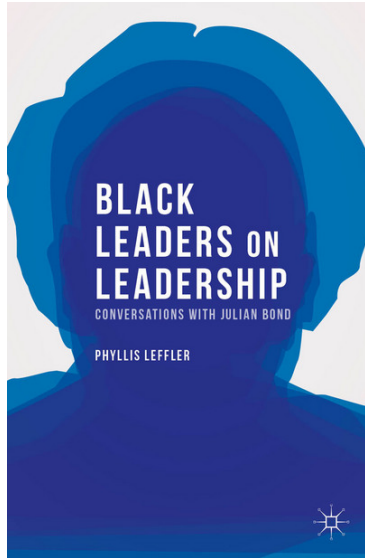
Howard University and was admitted to the bar in Washington D.C. in 1902. He became a Bahá'í in 1909 and was distinguished by being the first African-American to be invited by 'Abdu'l-Bahá' for a Bahá'í pilgrimage, and the first African American elected to the National Spiritual Assembly in the United States and Canada (a body he was elected to in 1922, 1924, 1927, 1932, 1934 and 1946).



Etter-Lewis, Gwendolyn and Richard W. Thomas, eds. *Lights of the Spirit: Historical Portraits of Black Baha'is in North America, 1898-2000*. Wilmette, IL: Bahá'í Publishing, 2006, pp.360, ISBN: 978-1-931847-26-1.

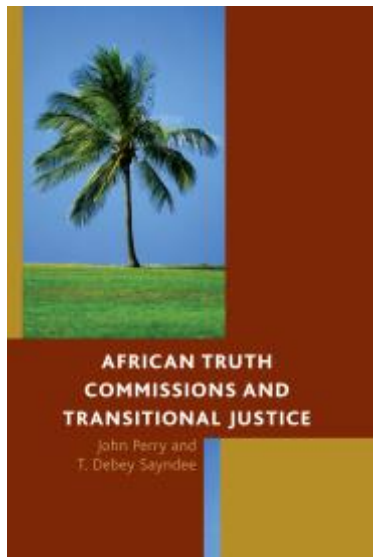
This book brings to light the stories of a diverse group of people including attorney Louis Gregory, poet Robert Hayden, jazz great Dizzy Gillespie, Broadway actress Dorothy Champ, and Canadian singer Eddie Elliot, to name a few. Thus, it offers an introduction to the Bahá'í Faith in six essays that describe the Black experience in the North American Baha'i community; it engages African-Americans and the development of the Faith in the U.S. and Canada which includes the contributions of African-American women, and the role of African-Americans in the global expansion of the Baha'i Faith. And additionally, the work documents nine historically prominent African-American Bahá'ís,

providing insights into how these they perceived themselves and the larger communities in which they lived via creative and social commentaries, letters, and family histories (many of the documents are previously unpublished).



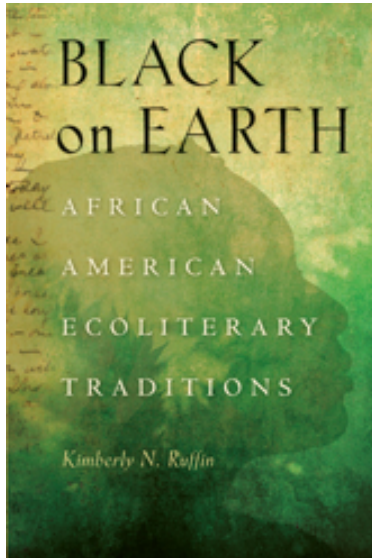
Leffler, Phyllis. *Black Leaders on Leadership: Conversations with Julian Bond*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2014, pp. 380, ISBN: 9781137342508.

Drawing on a wealth of oral interviews collected by the late activist and politician Julian Bond, thus, the book uses the lives of prominent African Americans from all sectors of society to trace the contours of Black leadership in America such as John Lewis, Clarence Thomas, Eleanor Holmes Norton, Vernon Jordan, Angela Davis, Amiri Baraka, and many more. Stories of identity are foregrounded here via stories about the self, about group and community, about value and meaning. Hence, the book provides a genealogy of social and cultural identity, demonstrating how leadership emerges from historical struggle rooted in the promise of a brighter future, and providing valuable insights into the intractable disparities of race in America.



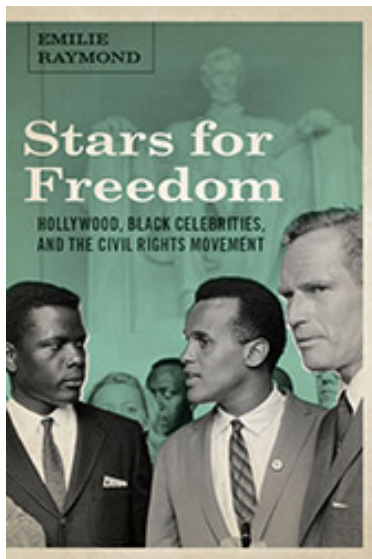
Perry, John and T. Debey Sayindee. *African Truth Commissions and Transitional Justice*. Lanham, MD: Lexington Books, 2015, pp.120, ISBN: 978-1-4985-0407-2.

This work examines the functioning of truth commissions in Africa, outlining the lessons learned, the best practices, and the successes and failures of seven African truth commissions as it places truth commissions within the growing academic field of transitional justice. The South African Truth and Reconciliation Commission of 1996 has become the 'gold standard' for future truth commissions not only in Africa, but throughout the world: it unearthed much truth about the Apartheid era abuse of human rights and took vital first steps towards restorative justice



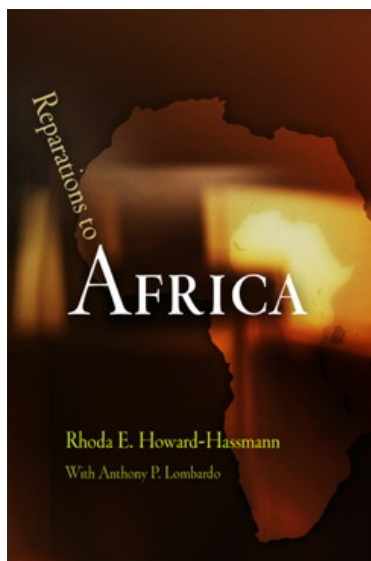
Ruffin, Kimberly N. *Black on Earth: African American Ecoliterary Traditions*. Athens, GA: University of Georgia Press, 2010, pp.192, ISBN: 978-0-8203-2856-0.

This book analyzes the ecological experiences, conceptions, and desires seen in African American writing, and identifies a theory of “ecological burden and beauty” in which African American authors underscore the ecological burdens of living within human hierarchies in the social order just as they explore the ecological beauty of being a part of the natural order to report that Black people were ecological agents before the emergence of American nature writing, and thus, their perspectives are critical to understanding the full scope of ecological thought. Hence, the author examines African American ecological insights from the antebellum era to the twenty-first century, considering WPA narratives of the enslaved, neo–enslavement poetry, novels, essays, and documentary films by such artists as Octavia Butler, Alice Walker, Henry Dumas, Percival Everett, Spike Lee, and Jayne Cortez to identify themes of work, enslavement, religion, mythology, music, and citizenship and how African American writers are visionary ecological artists.



Raymond, Emilie. *Stars for Freedom: Hollywood, Black Celebrities, and the Civil Rights Movement*. Seattle, WA: University of Washington Press, 2015, pp.352, 22 photos, ISBN: 9780295994802.

From Oprah Winfrey to Angelina Jolie, George Clooney to Leonardo DiCaprio, Americans have come to expect that Hollywood celebrities will be outspoken advocates for social and political causes. However, that wasn't always the case. As the shows, during the civil rights movement only a handful of celebrities risked their careers by crusading for racial equality, and forged the role of celebrity in American political culture. Focusing Harry Belafonte, Ossie Davis, Ruby Dee, Sammy Davis, Jr., Dick Gregory, and Sidney Poitier, the author reveals how they not only advanced the civil rights movement in front of the cameras, but also how they worked tirelessly behind the scenes, raising money for Martin Luther King, Jr.'s legal defense, leading membership drives for the NAACP, and personally engaging with workaday activists to boost morale. And perhaps most revealing is how Sammy Davis, Jr. raised more money for the movement than any other celebrity.



Howard-Hassmann, Rhoda E. (with Anthony P. Lombardo). *Reparations to Africa*. Philadelphia, PA: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2011, pp.272, ISBN: 978-0-8122-2164-0.

Calls for reparations for the evils of enslavement, as well as for past colonial and current economic and political abuses, can be heard across Africa and the African diaspora. Thus, this book examines these calls for redress as the author analyzes the reparations movement from the perspectives of law, philosophy, political science, and sociology to detail the complexity of this history, along with facts of the contemporary situation that weakens the case for financial compensation, however, the author recommend acknowledgment of and apologies for this crime against African humanity. Thus, the book not only provides a reckoning with the root causes, both internal and external, of African underdevelopment and unrest, but it also suggests

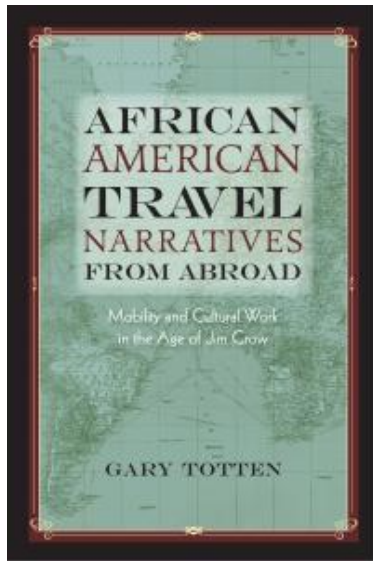
alternative means for restorative justice and examines the role that institutions such as the International Criminal Court can play. The voices of 74 African academics, diplomats, and activists interviewed contribute to the discussion.



Ickes, Scott. *African-Brazilian Culture and Regional Identity in Bahia, Brazil*. Gainesville, FL: University Press of Florida, 2013, pp.340, ISBN: 978-0-8130-4478-1.

This book examines how in the middle of the twentieth century, African-Bahian cultural practices such as capoeira, samba, and Candomblé during carnival and other popular religious festivals came to be accepted as essential components of Bahian regional identity. Previously, public performances of traditionally African-Bahian practices were repressed in favor of more European traditions and a more "modern" vision. Hence, the author argues that cultural-political alliances between African-Bahian cultural practitioners and their dominant-class allies helped to create a meaningful framework through which African-Bahian inclusion could be negotiated--a framework that is also important in the larger discussions of race and regional and national identity

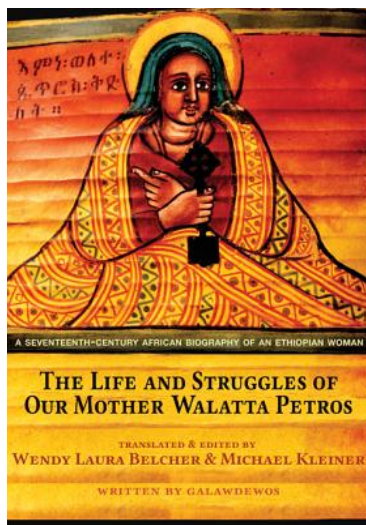
throughout Brazil. And in this context, Bahia is a culturally complex space, vibrant and rich with history as its African-descended population is one of the largest in Latin America, and although they represent a majority of the population, they remain a marginalized racial group within the state as a whole.



Totten, Gary. *African American Travel Narratives from Abroad: Mobility and Cultural Work in the Age of Jim Crow*. University of Massachusetts Press, 2015, pp.184, ISBN: 9781613763636.

In this contribution, the author examines the global travel narratives of a diverse set of African American writers, including Ida B. Wells, Booker T. Washington, Matthew Henson, Jessie Redmon Fauset, and Zora Neale Hurston. Hence, the book offers new insights about African American writers and mobility as it also charts the ideological distinctions and divergent agendas within this group of writers. The author argues that these travelers and their writings challenged dominant ideologies about African American experience, expression, and identity during the Jim Crow era when African American travelers faced the prospects of violence, harassment, and the denial of services, especially as they made their way throughout the American South; and those

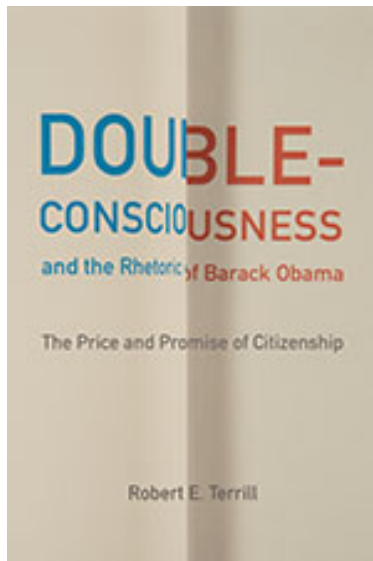
who journeyed outside the United States found not only a political and social context that was markedly different from America's, but in their international mobility, they also discovered new ways of identifying themselves in relation to others as the author set the work in a historical context and within the genre of travel writing.



Galawdewos, translated and edited by Wendy Laura Belcher and Michael Kleiner. *The Life and Struggles of Our Mother Walatta Petros: A Seventeenth-Century African Biography of an Ethiopian Woman*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2015, pp.544, ISBN: 9780691164212.

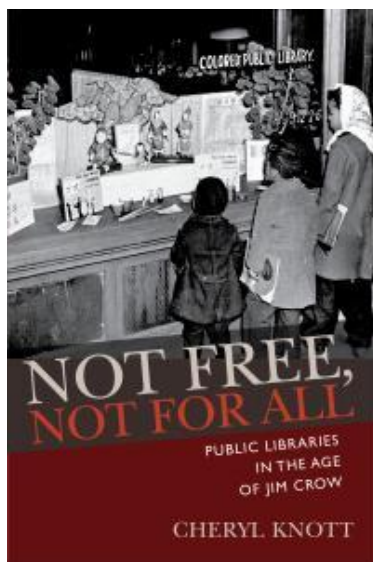
This work tells the story of an Ethiopian saint who led a successful nonviolent movement to preserve African Christian beliefs in the face of European proto-colonialism. When the Jesuits tried to convert the Ethiopians from their ancient form of Christianity, Walatta Petros (1592-1642), a noblewoman and the wife of one of the emperor's counselors, risked her life by leaving her husband, who supported the conversion effort, and leading the struggle against the Jesuits. After her death, her disciples wrote this book, praising her as a friend of women, a devoted reader, a

skilled preacher, and a radical leader. One of the earliest stories of African resistance to European influence, this biography also provides a picture of domestic life, including Walatta Petros's life-long relationship with a female companion.



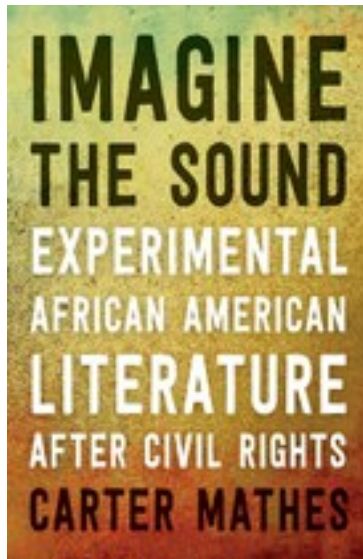
Terrill, Robert E. *Double-Consciousness and the Rhetoric of Barack Obama: The Price and Promise of Citizenship*. Columbia, SC: University of South Carolina Press, 2015, pp.244, ISBN: 978-1-61117-531-8.

Here the author argues that, to invent a robust manner of addressing one another as citizens, Americans must learn to draw on the delicate indignities of racial exclusion that have stained citizenship since its inception, thus, he demonstrates how President Barack Obama's public address models such a discourse and contends that Obama's most effective oratory invites his audiences to experience a form of "double-consciousness," famously described by W. E. B. Du Bois as a feeling of "two-ness" resulting from the African American experience of "always looking at one's self through the eyes of others", described as an effect of cruel alienation that can also bring a gift of "second-sight" in the form of perspectives on practices of citizenship not available to those in positions of privilege. Through close analyses of selected speeches from Obama's 2008 campaign and his first presidential term, the book also suggest that Obama does not present double-consciousness merely as a point of view but as an idiom with which we might speak to one another.



Knott, Cheryl. *Not Free, Not for All: Public Libraries in the Age of Jim Crow*. Amherst, MA: University of Massachusetts, 2015, pp.296, ISBN: 978-1-62534-178-5.

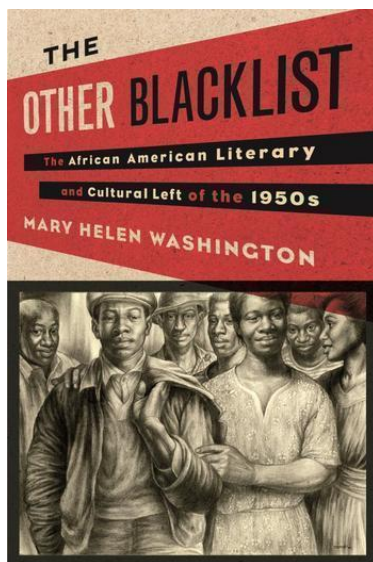
This book traces the establishment, growth, and eventual demise of separate public libraries for African Americans in the South, disrupting the popular image of the American public library as historically welcoming readers from all walks of life. Using institutional records, contemporaneous newspaper and magazine articles, and other primary sources together with scholarly work in the fields of print culture and civil rights history, the author reconstructs a complex story involving both animosity and cooperation among whites and Blacks who valued what libraries had to offer. African American library advocates, staff, and users emerge as the creators of their own separate collections and services with both symbolic and material importance, even as they worked toward dismantling those very institutions during the era of desegregation. The strength of this work is that there has been little research published on the segregation of public libraries in the Jim Crow South, and much of the writing on public library history has failed to note its racial exclusions.



Mathes, Carter. *Imagine the Sound: Experimental African American Literature after Civil Rights*. Minneapolis, MN: University of Minnesota Press, 2015, pp.264, ISBN 978-0-8166-9306-1.

Here the author demonstrates how African American writers used sound to further artistic resistance within a rapidly transforming political and racial landscape. While many have noted the oral and musical qualities of African American poetry from the post-Civil Rights period, Mathes points out how the political implications of dissonance, vibration, and resonance produced in essays, short stories, and novels animated the ongoing struggle for equality. Situating literary works by Henry Dumas, Larry Neal, and Toni Cade Bambara in relation to the expansive ideas of sound proposed by free jazz musicians such as Marion Brown and Sun Ra, thus, this book illustrates how the presence of sound can be

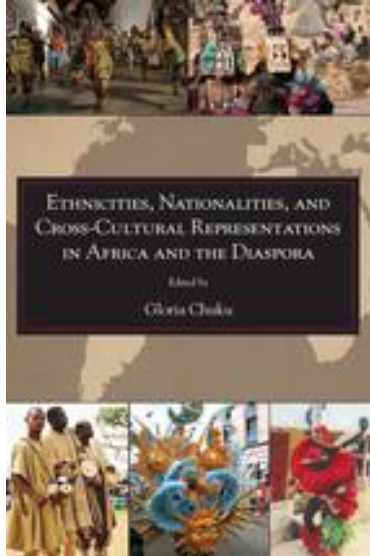
heard and read as political and recuperates critically neglected, yet important, writers and musicians. And ultimately, the author details how attempts to capture and render sound through the medium of writing enable writers to envision alternate realities and resistance outside of the linear frameworks offered by the Civil Rights and Black Power movements.



Washington, Mary Helen. *The Other Blacklist: The African American Literary and Cultural Left of the 1950s*. New York: Columbia University Press, 2014, pp.368, ISBN: 0231152701.

This work recovers the vital role of 1950s leftist politics in the works and lives of modern African American writers and artists, thus, it incorporates Black intellectuals back into African American literature and art. The author surveys four representative writers--Lloyd Brown, Frank London Brown, Alice Childress, and Gwendolyn Brooks--and the work of the visual artist Charles White and traces resonances of leftist ideas and activism in their artistic achievements and follows their balanced critique of the mainstream liberal and conservative political and literary spheres. The book also recounts the targeting of African American as well as white writers during the McCarthy era, reconstructs the events of the 1959 Black Writers' Conference in New York, and argues

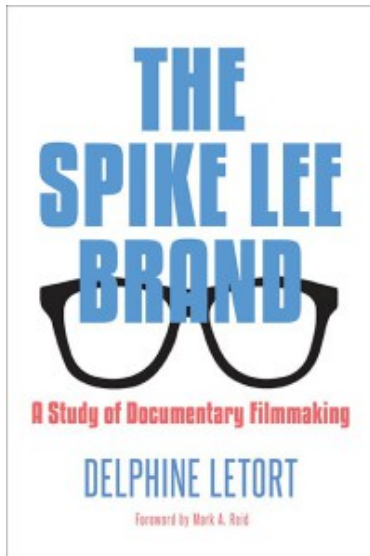
for the ongoing influence of the Black Popular Front decades after it folded; defining the contours of a distinctly Black modernism and its far-ranging radicalization of American politics and culture, the author aims to fundamentally reorient scholarship on African American and Cold War literature and life.



Chuku, Gloria, ed. *Ethnicities, Nationalities, and Cross-Cultural Representations in Africa and the Diaspora*. Durham, NC: Carolina Academic Press, 2015, pp.410, ISBN: 978-1-61163-663-5.

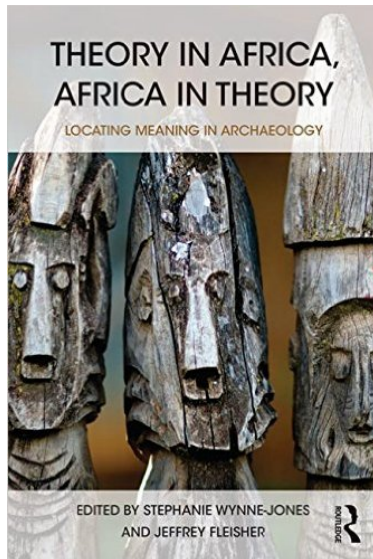
This book explores the global conditions and networks of hegemonic and hierarchical power relations that shaped the history of class, ethnicity, gender, and race, and that determine the nature of African world linkages within imperial and national boundaries. The book emphasizes the roots and routes of cross-cultural itineraries of African people, including their ethnic, national, cultural, and literary representations as well as their contributions to the world, particularly Africa. It also explores the cross-cultural and multicultural societies and communities, nationalism and nationalities, frontiers and boundaries, cultural transmission and identity formation, power relations,

communication and translation, colonialism and neocolonialism, Pan-Africanism, ethnicity, race and gender, and modernity.



Letort, Delphine (foreword by Mark A. Reid). *The Spike Lee Brand: A Study of Documentary*. Albany, NY: State University of New York Press, 2015, pp.226, ISBN: 978-1-4384-5763-5.

This book focuses on Spike Lee's filmmaking by offering a look at his creative engagement with the genre of documentary filmmaking. Ranging from history to sports and music, Lee has tackled a diversity of topics in such nonfiction films as *4 Little Girls*, *A Huey P. Newton Story*, *Jim Brown: All-American*, and *When the Levees Broke: A Requiem in Four Acts*. Hence, the author analyzes the narrative and aesthetic discourses that structure these films and calls attention to Lee's technical skills and narrative-framing devices, and finally, she examines the sociological value of Lee's investigations into contemporary culture and explores the ethics of his commitment to a genre characterized by its claim to truth.



Wynne-Jones, Stephanie and Jeffrey B. Fleisher, eds. *Theory in Africa, Africa in Theory: Locating Meaning in Archaeology*. London: Routledge, 2015, pp.296, ISBN: 978-1-13-886061-2.

This work explores the place of Africa in archaeological theory and the place of theory in African archaeology via the centrality of Africa to global archaeological thinking with a particular focus on materiality and agency in contemporary interpretation. The volume also addresses differences between how African models are used in western theoretical discourse and the use of that theory within Africa, and provides African modes of thought have shaped approaches to a meaningful past outside of Africa. Hence, the book deconstructs the conventional ways in approaching the past, positions Africa within a global theoretical discourse by blending Western and African scholarship. Some of the topic covered in the volume includes African models in global histories, the place of Africa in theory, dynamic interpretation in African archaeology, the pioneers of archaeological thought and practice in postcolonial Nigeria, cognitive models in African prehistory, material expressions of religious identity in Ghana, and Iron Age studies in southern Africa. The editors (Stephanie Wynne-Jones and Jeffrey B. Fleisher) are experienced academics, Wynne-Jones is a Swahili archaeologist at the University of York, specializing in East African coastal urbanism, material culture and social practice; and Fleisher is a professor at Rice University and director of the Rice University Archaeological Field School.