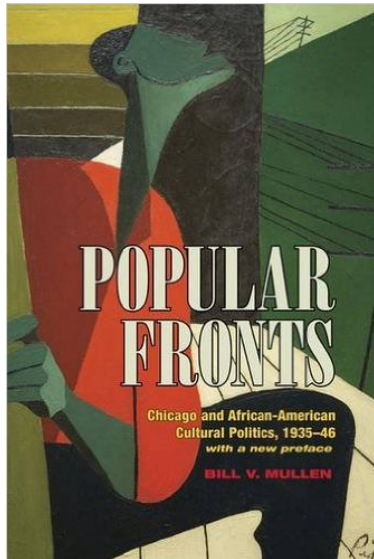


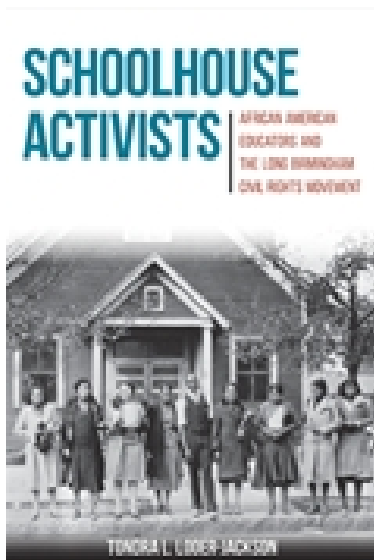
Books of Interest



Mullen, Bill V. *Popular Fronts: Chicago and African-American Cultural Politics, 1935-46* (2nd edition, with a new preface). Champaign, IL: University of Illinois Press, 2015, pp.272, ISBN: 0252081072.

With a new preface the author (a professor of English and American studies at Purdue University) updates his reappraisal of a critical moment in American cultural history to engage the reassessments of the politics of Richard Wright's critical reputation and a provocative reading of class struggle in Gwendolyn Brooks' *A Street in Bronzeville* (1945), and a look at the institutions that comprised Chicago's Black popular front such as the *Chicago Defender*, the period's leading Black newspaper; *Negro Story*, the first magazine devoted to publishing short stories by and about African Americans; and the WPA-sponsored South Side Community Art Center. As the backdrop, the reviews the

Communist International's Popular Front campaign of the 1930s brought to the fore by ideas that resonated in Chicago's African American community which outlasted its Communist Party affiliation to serve as a model and inspiration for a postwar cultural insurrection, led by African Americans.



Loder-Jackson, Tondra L. *Schoolhouse Activists: African American Educators and the Long Birmingham Civil Rights Movement*. Albany, NY: State University of New York Press, 2015, pp.272, ISBN: 978-1-4384-5861-8.

This contribution examines the role that African American educators played in the Birmingham, Alabama, Civil Rights movement from the late nineteenth century to the present day. Drawing on multiple perspectives from education, history, and sociology, the author (an associate professor of Educational Foundations at the University of Alabama at Birmingham) revisits longstanding debates about whether these educators were friends or foes of the Civil Rights movement using Black feminist thought and the life course perspective to illuminate the unique and often clandestine brand of activism that these teachers cultivated.



Abron-Ervin, JoNina. *Driven by the Movement: Activists of the Black Power Era*. United States: Let's Organize the 'Hood'; P & L Press [Denver, CO], 2011, pp., 116, ISBN: 978-0578090511, OCLC: 811060504. Kindle Edition (913 KB, pp.116, Let's Organize the 'Hood', April 7, 2014, ASIN: B00JJWNVBK) via Amazon Digital Services, Inc.

This rare work tells the inspirational stories of twenty African-American social justice activists during the historic decade of 1965 to 1975. From all walks of life, the activists were single working mothers, married couples, students, teachers, members of the clergy, veterans, and others. Some put their personal lives on hold to organize against police brutality, poverty, hunger, racism, failing public schools, colonialism in Africa, and other issues of the time. With an insider's knowledge of the Black power era, the author offers a perspective on why the contributions of local and regional

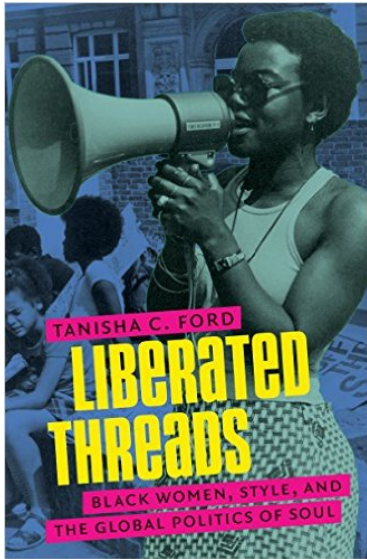
Black grassroots activists of the late 1960's transformed race relations in the United States. The author was a member of the Black Panther Party for nearly a decade and was the last editor of the *Black Panther* newspaper, a news correspondent at the 2001 U.N. World Conference Against Racism, and was formerly the managing editor of the *Black Scholar* magazine.



Cole, Ernest and Oumar Cherif Diop, eds. *Ousmane Sembène: Writer, Filmmaker, and Revolutionary Artist*. Trenton, NJ: Africa World Press, 2015, pp.474, ISBN: 1569024642.

This volume explores the disillusionment and disenchantment occasioned by the reversal of expectations of post-independent African societies. Prominent as motif is Sembène's denunciation of neocolonialism and African complicity in political and psychological colonization. Using Senegal as socio-political microcosm of post-independent African societies and film as an aesthetic medium to examine corruption, nepotism, oppression of women, and religious intolerance, Sembène focuses on education as instruments of colonial domination and agents of destruction of African cultural heritage. The essays also unveil his condemnation of western media for its misrepresentation and dehumanization of indigenous African peoples and systems and for promoting a

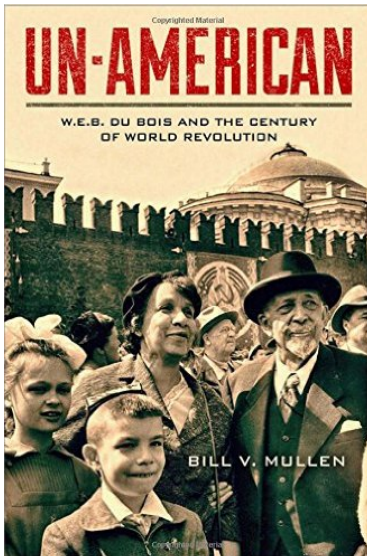
culture of inferiority and sub-humanity that accentuates binaries inherent in western ideologies of racial superiority and civilization. And also, the essays seek to capture his preoccupation with self-consciousness, social liberation, and political empowerment of the masses via interviews, an examination of films, his aesthetics as filmmaker, producer, and director.



Ford, Tanisha C. *Liberated Threads: Black Women, Style, and the Global Politics of Soul*. Chapel Hill, NC: University of North Carolina Press, 2015, pp.272. ISBN: 1469625156.

This book explores how and why Black women in places as far-flung as New York City, Atlanta, London, and Johannesburg incorporated style and beauty culture into their activism. Focusing on the emergence of the "soul style" movement—represented in clothing, jewelry, hairstyles, and more—the book shows that Black women's fashion choices became galvanizing symbols of gender and political liberation. Drawing from an eclectic archive, the author (an assistant professor of Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst) offers a new way of studying how Black style and Soul Power moved beyond national boundaries, sparking a global fashion phenomenon. Following celebrities, models, college students, and

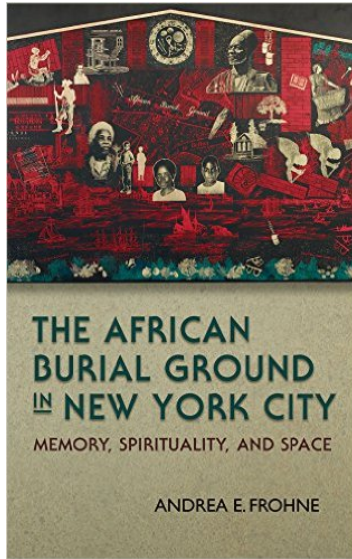
everyday women as they moved through fashion boutiques, beauty salons, and record stores, the author narrates the fascinating intertwining histories of Black Freedom and fashion.



Mullen, Bill V. *Un-American: W.E.B. Du Bois and the Century of World Revolution*. Philadelphia, PA: Temple University Press, 2015, pp.258, ISBN: 978-1439911105.

This work is a revisionist account of renowned author and Pan African activist W.E.B. Du Bois's political thought toward the end of his life, a period largely dismissed and neglected by scholars which describes Du Bois's support for what the Communist International called "world revolution" as the primary objective of this aged radical's activism. Hence, the author argues that Du Bois believed that the Cold War stalemate could create the conditions in which the world powers could achieve not only peace but workers' democracy, and suggest that Du Bois was deeply engaged in international networks and personal relationships with revolutionaries in India, China, and Africa. The book also explores how thinkers like Karl Marx, Jawaharlal Nehru,

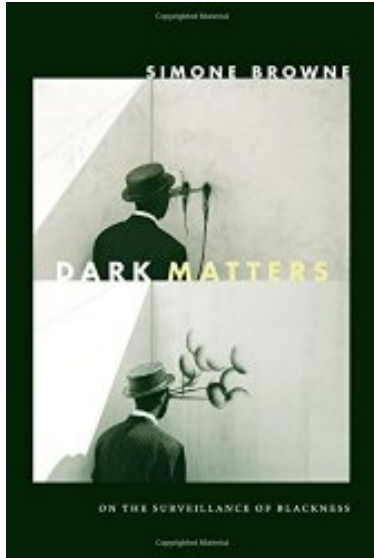
Mohandas Gandhi, and C.L.R. James helped Du Bois develop a theory of world revolution at a stage in his life when most commentators regard him as marginalized, and challenges assessments of Du Bois as an American "race man."



Frohne, Andrea E. *The African Burial Ground in New York City: Memory, Spirituality, and Space*. Syracuse, NY: Syracuse University Press, 2015, pp.444, ISBN: 0815634013.

In this work, the author (an associate professor of African art history at Ohio University with a joint appointment in the School of Interdisciplinary Arts and the School of Art and Design) narrates the story of the African Burial Ground and the controversies surrounding urban commemoration. Hence, she analyzes its colonial and contemporary representations, drawing on colonial-era maps, prints, and land surveys to illuminate the forgotten and hidden visual histories of a mostly enslaved population buried in the African Burial Ground. Tracing the history and identity of the area from a forgotten site to a contested and negotiated space, the author situates the burial ground within the context of late twentieth- and early twenty-first-century race relations in New

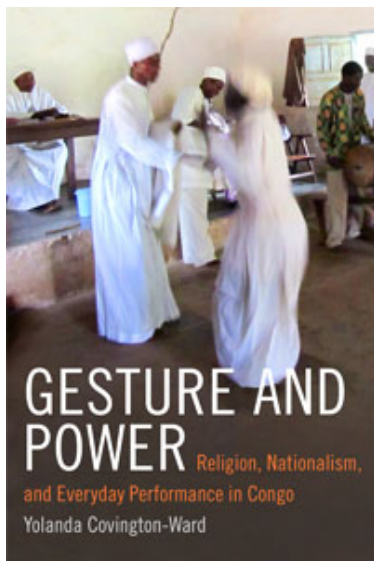
York City to reveal its enduring presence as a spiritual place. Finally, she illustrates visually, spiritually, and spatially the historic and contemporary formation of a New York City African diaspora in relation to the African Burial Ground. In 1991, archaeologists in lower Manhattan unearthed a stunning discovery. Buried for more than 200 years was a communal cemetery containing the remains of up to 20,000 African people. At roughly 6.6 acres, the African Burial Ground is the largest and earliest known burial space of African descendants in North America. In the years that followed its discovery, citizens and activists fought tirelessly to demand respectful treatment of eighteenth-century funerary remains and sacred ancestors. After more than a decade of political battle-on local and national levels-and scientific research at Howard University, the remains were eventually reburied on the site in 2003. Hence, the book captures the varied perspectives and the emotional tenor of the time, and today, personal offerings and commemorative artworks, many of which incorporate traditional African and African world arts and religions, pay tribute to the ancestors and the sacred space.



Browne, Simone. *Dark Matters: On the Surveillance of Blackness*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 2015, pp.224, ISBN: 0822359383.

The author of this book locates the conditions of Blackness as a key site through which surveillance is practiced, narrated, and resisted. She shows how contemporary surveillance technologies and practices are informed by the long history of racial formation and by the methods of policing Black life under slavery, such as branding, runaway slave notices, and lantern laws. Placing surveillance studies into conversation with the archive of transatlantic enslavement and its afterlife, and drawing from Black feminist theory, sociology, and cultural studies to analyze texts as diverse as the methods of examining Blackness, the author asserts a discursive and material practice that reifies boundaries, borders, and bodies around racial lines, so much so

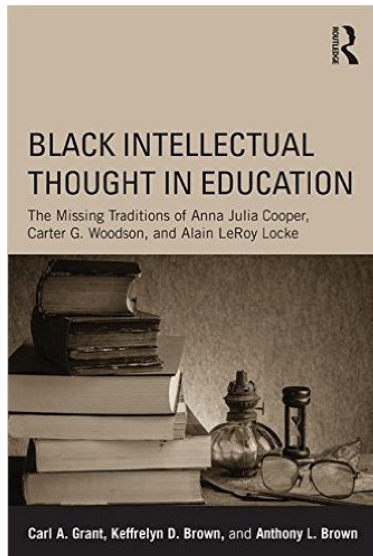
that the surveillance of Blackness has long been, and continues to be, a social and political norm.



Covington-Ward, Yolanda. *Gesture and Power: Religion, Nationalism, and Everyday Performance in Congo*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 2015, pp.304, ISBN: 978-0-8223-6020-9.

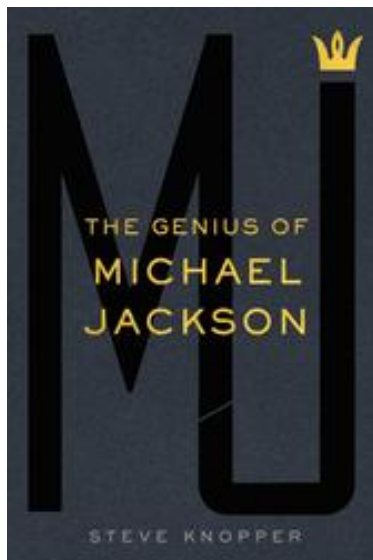
This book examines the everyday embodied practices and performances of the BisiKongo people of the lower Congo to show how their gestures, dances, and spirituality are critical in mobilizing social and political action. Conceiving of the body as the center of analysis, a catalyst for social action, and as conduit for the social construction of reality, the author (an assistant professor of Africana Studies at the University of Pittsburgh) focuses on specific flash points in the last ninety years of Congo's troubled history, when embodied performance was used to stake political claims, foster dissent, and enforce power. In the 1920s Simon Kimbangu started a Christian prophetic movement based on spirit-induced trembling, which swept through the Lower

Congo, subverting Belgian colonial authority. Following independence, Mobutu Sese Seko required citizens to dance and sing nationalist songs daily as a means of maintaining political control. More recently, embodied performance has again stoked reform, as nationalist groups such as Bundu dia Kongo advocate for a return to precolonial religious practices and non-Western gestures such as traditional greetings. In exploring these embodied expressions of Congolese agency, the author provides a framework for understanding how embodied practices transmit social values, identities, and cultural history throughout Africa and the diaspora.



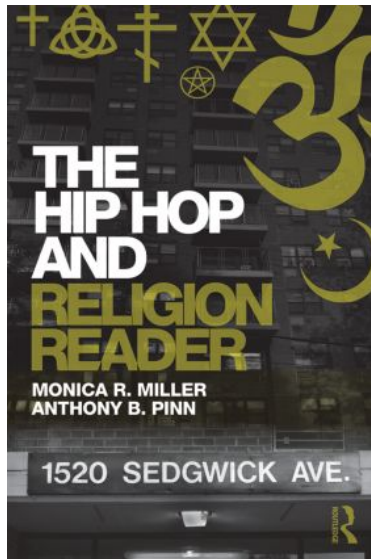
Grant, Carl A, Keffrelyn D. Brown and Anthony L. Brown, eds. *Black Intellectual Thought in Education: The Missing Traditions of Anna Julia Cooper, Carter G. Woodson, and Alain LeRoy Locke*. New York, NY: Routledge, 2015, pp.210, ISBN: 0415641918

This work celebrates the exceptional academic contributions of African-American education scholars Anna Julia Cooper, Carter G. Woodson, and Alain Leroy Locke to the causes of social science, education, and democracy in America, and thus, the book offers a counter-narrative to the dominant established discourse in education and critical social theory. The editors include a professor of Education in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction at the University of Wisconsin, Madison (Grant), and two associate professors in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction at the University of Texas at Austin.



Knopper, Steve. *MJ: The Genius of Michael Jackson*. New York: Scribner, 2015, pp.448, ISBN: 1476730377.

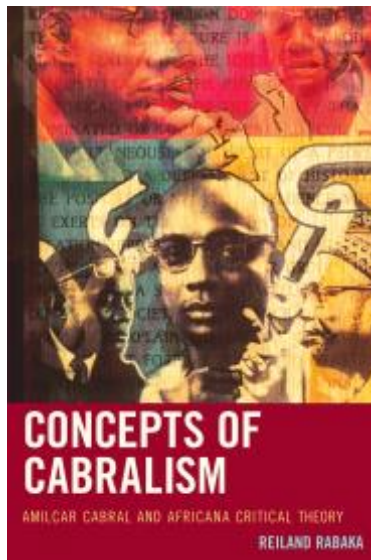
Drawing on 400 interviews ranging from Michael Jackson's relatives, friends, and key record executives, this critical biography explores and celebrates Jackson's influence/triumph in music, dance, and popular culture. Hence, the book reviews Jackson's dazzling rise to the pinnacle of pop music and his ignominious fall with the backstory of the moonwalk, the military jackets, white socks, glove, plastic surgery, skin whitening and more, scrupulously documented via multiple sources. The author is a contributing editor to *Rolling Stone* and a veteran music reporter who has written for *The New York Times Magazine*, and other publications.



Miller, Monica R. and Anthony B. Pinn, eds. *The Hip Hop Religion Reader*. New York: Routledge, 2014, pp.454, ISBN: 0415741017.

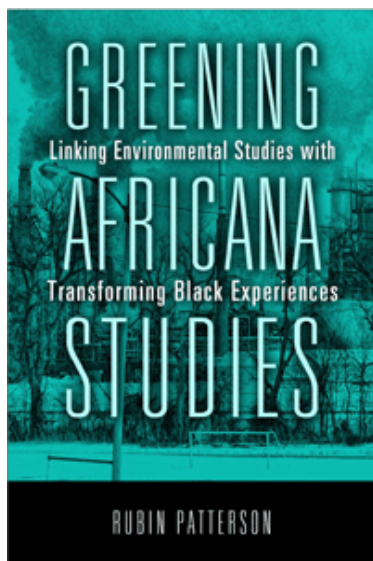
This book provides texts for an important and emerging field of study of religion and hip hop. Moving beyond an institutional understanding of religion and offering a multidimensional assortment of essays, this volume pulls together voices who have been a disparate and scattered few to comprise a foundational and influential set of discussions on hip hop's influence on the academic study of religion. Thus, the collection fills a void in that the discipline of religious studies which lacked a consistent and coherent text that highlights the developing work at the intersections of hip hop, religion and theology. The lead editor is a Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow in the Humanistic Approaches to the Social Sciences at Lewis & Clark College, Department of

Religious Studies, and the other is the Agnes Cullen Arnold Professor of Humanities and Professor of Religious Studies at Rice University.



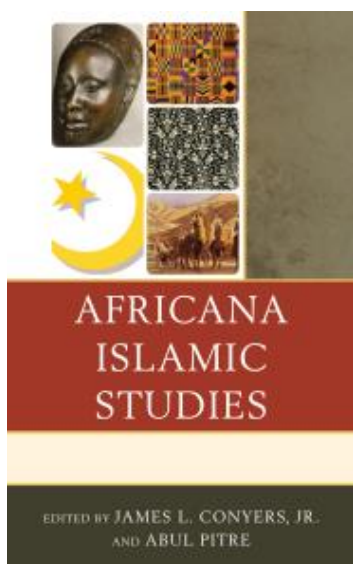
Rabaka, Reiland. *Concepts of Cabralism: Amilcar Cabral and Africana Critical Theory*. Lanham, MD: Lexington Books (reprint edition), 2015, pp.386, ISBN: 0739199269.

This book examines Amilcar Cabral's theories and praxes, and several antecedents and influences on the evolution of his radical politics and critical social theory. Thus, it also reintroduces, chronicles, and analyzes several of the core characteristics of the Africana tradition of critical theory in how Cabral constructed, deconstructed, and reconstructed theory and the aims, objectives, and concrete outcomes of his theoretical applications and discursive practices.



Patterson, Rubin. *Greening Africana Studies: Linking Environmental Studies with Transforming Black Experiences*. Philadelphia, PA: Temple University Press, 2015, pp.258, ISBN: 1439908729.

This work initiates conversation on why and how there is a gap between the concern for the environment and Africana Studies to argue that they should be bridged as he calls for a green African transnationalism and focuses on the mission and major paradigms that identify the respective curriculum, research interests, and practices. Hence, the book demonstrates how Black communities are harmed by local environmental degradation and global climate change, and how many local unwanted land use sites, such as brownfields and toxic release inventory facilities, are disproportionately located in close proximity to non-white neighborhoods, but also to colleges and universities with Africana Studies programs. Arguing that such communities are not aggressively engaging in environmental issues, the book also provides examples of how Africana Studies students as well as members of Black communities can prepare for green careers. The author is chair of Sociology and Anthropology at Howard University in Washington, DC and also a Research Associate in the Department of Sociology at the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg, South Africa.



Conyers, James L., Jr. and Abul Pitre, eds. *Africana Islamic Studies*. Lanham, MD: Lexington Books, 2016, pp.202, ISBN: 978-0739173442.

This book highlights the diverse contributions that African Americans have made to the formation of Islam in the United States. It specifically focuses on the Nation of Islam and its patriarch Elijah Muhammad with regards to the African American Islamic experience. Contributors explore topics such as gender, education, politics, and sociology from the African American perspective on Islam. The editors include a professor and director of the African American Studies Program and director of the Center of African American Culture at the University of Houston (James L. Conyers, Jr.) and Abul Pitre, a professor and department head of Educational Leadership and Counseling at Prairie View A&M University.