

## Notes on Contributors

**Reynaldo Anderson, PhD** currently serves as an assistant professor of Humanities at Harris-Stowe State University in Saint Louis, MO. Dr. Anderson has published articles, book chapters, and has presented extensive research documenting the Africana and/or the Communication Studies experience. Former chair of the Black Caucus of the National Communication Association and still an Executive member of the Missouri Arts Council,

**Julius Bailey, PhD**, a Christian Existentialist teaching in the Department of Philosophy at Wittenberg University. He is a philosopher, cultural critic, social theorist, and diversity lecturer. Recent publication includes: *Jay-Z: Essays on Hip Hop's Philosopher King* (McFarland, 2011) and *Philosophy and Hip Hop: Ruminations on Postmodern Cultural Form* (Palgrave, 2014)) and a host of articles on Hip Hop Pedagogy and Social Justice issues. Can be found at [www.juliusbailey.com](http://www.juliusbailey.com)

**Sha'Dawn Battle** is in the doctoral program in literature at the University of Cincinnati. In 2009, she earned an MA in English language and literatures from Wright State University. She also graduated from Wright State with a certificate in Women's Studies. She also serves as primary editor for Speaker of the House Publishing Company.

**Dawn Boeck** is a composition instructor and a writing consultant at Texas A&M University—Corpus Christi (TX). She received her Master of Arts with an emphasis in Rhetoric, Composition, and Borderlands Studies in May 2012 from TAMUCC. As an active member of the TAMUCC community, Dawn focuses her research and writing in diverse fields, both within and outside the academic community.

**Regina N. Bradley** received her PhD in African American Literature at Florida State University and currently teaches at Kennesaw State University. She writes about post-Civil Rights African American literature, pop culture, race and sound, and Hip Hop. African American literature and popular culture. *Current Musicology*. Regina's public scholarship has been featured on AllHipHop, TheLoop21, PopMatters, NewsOne, Racialicious, and her own blog, <http://redclayscholar.blogspot.com>

**A. D. Carson** is currently in the doctoral program for Rhetoric at The University of South Carolina. A high school educator, author, and performance artist, he has written hundreds of unpublished poems, stories, songs, and other tangentially related pieces, some of which he shares on his website, AydeeTheGreat.com. Author of *COLD* and essays *The City: [un]poems*, *Thoughts, Rhymes and Miscellany* (Mayhaven Publishing)

**Tommy Curry** is an associate professor of philosophy at Texas A&M University. His work spans across the various fields of philosophy, jurisprudence, Africana Studies, and Gender Studies. Though trained in American and Continental philosophical traditions, his primary research interests are in Critical Race Theory and Africana Philosophy.

**Akil Houston, PhD** is an assistant professor of Cultural and Media Studies in the Department of African American Studies. A filmmaker, dj, social critic, and one of the nation's most authentic hip-hop scholars, his work includes articles in *Philosophical Studies in Education Journal*, *The International Journal of Africana Studies*, and *Empathy and the Imagination-Intellect: Writings of Healing and Resistance* (Peter Lang, 2012).

**John Jennings, PhD** is an associate professor of Graphic Design at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. An accomplished designer, curator, illustrator, cartoonist, and award-winning graphic novelist, his work includes co-authoring *Black Comix: African American Independent Comics and Culture* (Mark Batty/Random House 2010), *Exploring the Visual Communication in Hip Hop Culture Design Research: Designing Culture* (Princeton Architectural Press, 2007).

**Nicholas D. Krebs** is a graduate instructor in the Department of African American Studies and Research Center at Purdue University. He holds a Masters in American Studies focuses on the formation and transmission of cultural knowledge.

**David J. Leonard, PhD** is an associate professor and chair in the Department of Critical Culture, Gender and Race Studies at Washington State University, Pullman. He is author of *After Artest: Race and The Assault on Blackness* (SUNY Press, 2012) and *Screens Fade to Black: Contemporary African American Cinema* (Praeger, 2006). Leonard is a regular contributor to popular outlets including the Chronicle of Higher Education, The Huffington Post, and Feminist Wire.

**Heidi R. Lewis, PhD** is an assistant professor of Feminist and Gender Studies at Colorado College. She earned a PhD in American Studies from Purdue University, where she also earned a Graduate Certificate in Women's Studies. Her research and teaching interests include feminist, gender and sexuality studies, critical media studies and popular culture, critical race theory, critical whiteness studies, and African American culture.

**Monica R. Miller** is an assistant professor of Religion and Africana Studies at Lehigh University. Miller is coeditor and contributor of a 2009 special issue of *Culture & Religion Journal* (Routledge) on Hip Hop and Religion and author of *Religion and Hip Hop* (Routledge). Miller is currently cochair of a new American Academy of Religion (AAR) Group, Critical Approaches to Hip Hop and Religion, and is a senior research fellow with The Institute for Humanist Studies.

**Mark Anthony Neal** is professor of Black Popular Culture in the Department of African and African-American Studies at Duke University and Harvard Hip Hop Archive Fellow. Dr. Neal is a prolific author of five books including his recent project, *Looking for Leroy for New York University Press* (2013). *New Black Man: Rethinking Black Masculinity* (2005), coauthored, *That's the Joint!: The Hip-Hop Studies Reader* (2004) and more. He is the host of the weekly webcast, 'Left of Black' and can be found at <http://newblackman.blogspot.com/>.

**Tim'm West** has been featured voice in many documentaries about Hip-Hop and masculinity because of his ground-breaking work as a gay-identified Hip-Hop artist, AIDS activist, and youth advocate. He is author of several books, is heavily anthologized, and has also produced and released nearly 10 Hip-Hop albums. Professionally, he serves as associate director of Youth Programs at Center On Halsted in Chicago, Illinois.