

THE HITCHCOCK INSTITUTE FOR STUDIES IN AMERICAN MUSIC

presents, in collaboration with the Brooklyn College Composer's Forum,
the Ethyle R. Wolfe Institute for the Humanities, the Department of Africana Studies at Brooklyn College,
and the Conservatory of Music at Brooklyn College:

MUSIC IN POLYCULTURAL AMERICA

spring 2021 virtual speaker series

A Great White Hope? Interrogating the Place of White Rappers in the Hip Hop Hierarchy

DONNA LEE GRANVILLE in conversation with WILL FULTON

Despite the success of white rappers like Eminem, the rising contemporary favorite Jack Harlow, and perhaps the lone woman Iggy Azalea, hip hop remains a field dominated by Black men. Interrogating the place of white rappers helps us understand the conditions that support their emergence as well as investigate the ways they participate, carving out niche spaces and followers across racial divides. This talk, which will open with a set DJ'ed by Will Fulton, brings together ideas about consumption, power, racial selves, authenticity, and digital technology to explore the position of white rappers in U.S. hip hop through: (1) place as geographic location; (2) ranking and popularity; and (3) proximity to Black culture. As they grow in visibility and popularity, the history of co-opting and appropriating Black cultural products compels a reading of white rappers as inextricably linked to and constitutive of the hegemonic power of whiteness.

Donna-Lee Granville (she/her) is a sociologist who writes, studies, and teaches about race, immigration, and culture. She is Assistant Professor of Sociology at Brooklyn College and also serves as Assistant Director of the Center for Teaching and Learning and Interim Director of the Center for the Study of Brooklyn, where she is developing the Brooklyn Hip Hop Archive. This talk is part of a book in process.



TUESDAY, 23 MARCH, 12:30PM

register here for Zoom link: <https://rb.gy/y2pp5o>

free and open to the public; this event will be recorded
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