

The Bottom Dwellers:

On Spiritual, Material and Ontological Sites of Deviant Making

A Reading List curated by
Zalika U. Ibaorimi

"Being good to somebody is just like being mean to somebody. Risky. You don't get nothing for it."

— Toni Morrison, 'Sula'

"Parrying was parrying. Middle twenties. I was out there and doing my thing. I found out that I wasn't missing nothing but trouble."

— Vencenia Walters

"The shadows, the noises, the music, the hollering, the screaming, the cursing. Jazz music everywhere."

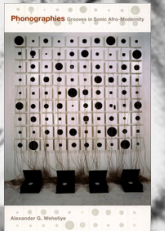
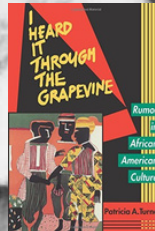
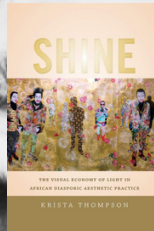
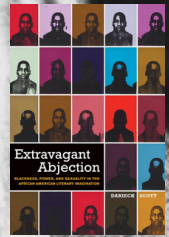
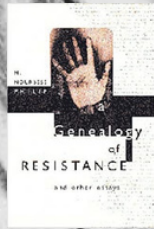
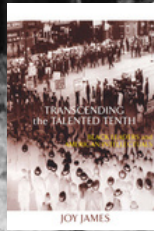
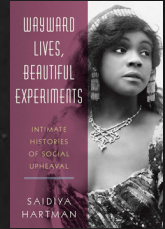
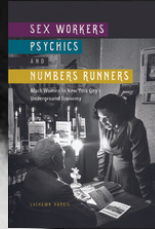
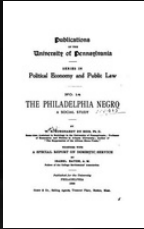
— Dr. Walter Palmer

"The Bottom Dwellers: On Spiritual, Material, and Ontological Sites of Deviant Making" by Zalika U. Ibaorimi considers the pleasures and horrors of a place termed the "Bottom;" however, in two parts, this lecture also regards "the Bottom" as a material space and immaterial human/counter-human sexual geographic space as fleshy. Identifying the bottom as a fleshy space provides a cognizance of place within a placelessness that exists outside of the boundaries of the perceived Black deviant femme's significance. "The Bottom Dwellers" interlocks the creative and imagined applications of Black intracomunal relations of sexual shame, desire, and pleasure. Through Toni Morrison's 'Sula' (1973), the life of Billie Holiday, and W.E.B. Du Bois' 'The Philadelphia Negro' (1899), I analyze how the materiality and ontology of those who position themselves at the precipice of "the Bottom" create the interlocking pathways between what is down below and what births the "jawn. This is a reading list designed to accompany the lecture.

The Bottom Dwellers:

On Spiritual, Material and Ontological Sites of Deviant Making

Books



The Bottom Dwellers:

On Spiritual, Material and Ontological Sites of Deviant Making

Books (cont'd)

Du Bois, William Edward Burghardt. 'The Philadelphia Negro' [1899]. University of Pennsylvania Press, 2010.

Griffin, Farah Jasmine. 'If You Can't Be Free, Be a Mystery. In Search of Billie Holiday'. Simon and Schuster, 2001.

Harris, LaShawn. 'Sex Workers, Psychics, and Numbers Runners Black Women in New York City's Underground Economy'. University of Illinois Press, 2016.

Hariman, Saidiya. 'Wayward Lives, Beautiful Experiments: Intimate Histories of Social Upheaval'. WW Norton & Company, 2019.

Holiday, Billie. 'Lady Sings the Blues' [by] Billie Holiday with William Dufty. [1st ed.]. Garden City, N. Y.: Doubleday, 1956.

James, Joy. 'Transcending the Talented Tenth: Black Leaders and American Intellectuals'. Routledge, 1997.

McKinnick, Katherine. 'Demonic Grounds: Black Women and the Cartographies of Struggle'. U of Minnesota Press, 2006.

Moore, Naihan Alexander. "Transliminality, Black Transfemmes and the Limit of Visibility Politics." *TransNarratives: Scholarly and Creative Works on Transgender Experience* (2021), 53.

Peach, Linden. 'Toni Morrison'. Macmillan International Higher Education, 1995.

Philip, M. Nourbese. 'A Genealogy of Resistance: And Other Essays'. Mercury Press (Canada), 1997.

Quashie, Kevin. 'The Sovereignty of Quiet: Beyond Resistance in Black Culture'. Rutgers University Press, 2012.

Scott, Darieck. 'Extravagant Abjection: Blackness, Power, and Sexuality in the African American Literary Imagination'. New York University Press, 2010.

Stockton, Kathryn Bond. 'Beautiful Bottom, Beautiful Shame: Where "Black" Meets "Queer"'. Duke University Press, 2006.

Thompson, Krisia A. 'Shine: The Visual Economy of Light in African Diasporic Aesthetic Practice'. Duke University Press, 2015.

Turner, Patricia A. 'I Heard It Through the Grapevine: Rumor in African-American Culture'. University of California Press, 1993.

Weheliye, Alexander G. 'Phonographies: Grooves in Sonic Afro-Modernity'. Duke University Press, 2005.

The Bottom Dwellers:

On Spiritual, Material and Ontological Sites of Deviant Making

Articles



Fekade, Beza. "From Riperion To Tribe, and Back Again. Hip Hop Sampling's Sonic Temporality & Resistance." *Journal of Popular Music Studies* 33, no. 4 (2021), 28-33.

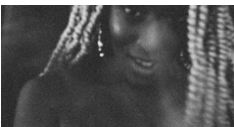
Forrest, Leon. "A Solo Long-Song: For Lady Day." *Callaloo* 16, no. 2 (1993), 332-367.

Griffin, Farah Jasmine. "Black Feminis and Du Bois: Respectability, Protection, and Beyond." *The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science* 568, no. 1 (2000), 28-40.

Spillers, Horiense J. "A Hateful Passion, A Losi Love." *Feminis Studies* 9, no. 2 (1983), 293-323.

Spillers, Horiense, Saidiya Hariman, Farah Jasmine Griffin, Shelly Eversley, and Jennifer L. Morgan. "'Whaicha Go'ina Do?': Revisiting 'Mama's Baby, Papa's Maybe: An American Grammar Book', A Conversation with Horiense Spillers, Saidiya Hariman, Farah Jasmine Griffin, Shelly Eversley, & Jennifer L. Morgan." *Women's Studies Quarterly* 35, no. 1/2 (2007), 299-309.

Performances



Ibaorimi, Zalika U. 2020. "Jawn Theory." *Visual and New Media Review, Fieldsights*, June 18. <https://culanin.org/fieldsights/jawn-i-theory>