

JACOB S. DORMAN, Ph.D.

3613 Wescoe Hall, 1445 Jayhawk Boulevard, Lawrence, KS 66045, dorman@ku.edu

EMPLOYMENT

Assistant Professor,

The University of Kansas, Department of History and American Studies Program, August 2007 -

With a courtesy appointment in African and Afro-American Studies.

EDUCATION

University of California, Los Angeles. Ph.D., United States History, June 2004.

Primary field: African American history. Secondary fields: African Diaspora religions; United States cultural history. Dr. Brenda E. Stevenson, Dissertation Advisor.

Dissertation: *The Black Israelites of Harlem and the Professors of Oriental and African Mystic Science in the 1920's*. African Americans in early twentieth century cities reimagined the past and created new religious traditions that resisted Jim Crow racism using the libratory potential of romantic Orientalist imagery.

Stanford University, Stanford, CA. A.B. History, *summa cum laude*, June 1996.

Stanford Overseas Studies Center, St. Catherine's College, Oxford University, England 1994 – 1995.

Honors Thesis: *Hatzaad Harishon: Integration, Black Power and Black Jews in New York, 1964-1972*.

Winner of Highest Honors and Stanford University's Golden Medal in the Humanities, the thesis examines the attempt to integrate New York's Black Israelites and European-descended Jews during the Civil Rights and Black Power eras.

PUBLICATIONS

Manuscripts:

Chosen People: African Americans and the Rise of Black Judaism

Forthcoming from Oxford University Press; to appear in 2012.

The Rainbow Covenant: Black Jews, Black Power, and Black-Jewish Relations

In progress.

Black Orientalism: Spiritualists, Muslims, Minstrels, Masons & the Making of Black Religions.

In progress.

Articles and Book Chapters:

“Skin Bleach and Civilization: The Racial Formation of Blackness in 1920s Harlem.” *The Journal of Pan African Studies* 4 no. 4, (June 2011): 46-79 - Special Issue: Skin Bleaching and Global White Supremacy.

“‘Lifted out of the Commonplace Grandeur of Modern Times:’ Reappraising Edward Wilmot Blyden’s Views of Islam and Afrocentrism in Light of His Scholarly Black Christian Orientalism” *Souls: A Critical Journal of Black Politics, Culture, and Society* 12, no 4 (October 2010): 398-418.

“Back to Harlem: Abstract and Everyday Labor during the ‘Harlem Renaissance’” in *The Harlem Renaissance Revisited: Politics, Arts, and Letters*, ed. Jeffrey O. G. Ogbar. Johns Hopkins University Press, 2010), 74-90.

“Black Orientalism and Black Gods of the Metropolis,” in Edward E. Curtis IV and Danielle Brune Sigler,

editors, *The New Black Gods: Arthur Huff Fauset and the Study of African American Religions* (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, June 2009), 116-142.

“‘I Saw You Disappear with My Own Eyes:’ Hidden Transcripts of New York Black Israelite Bricolage,” *Nova Religio: The Journal of Alternative and Emergent Religions*, the University of California Press 11, no. 1 (August 2007): 61-83.

“Black Jews, Black Hebrews, and Black Israelites in the United States,” in *Introduction to New and Alternative Religions in the United States*, edited by Eugene V. Gallagher and W. Michael Ashcraft, (Westport, CT: Praeger Publishers, 2006), 59-84.

Articles in progress:

“Vernacular Orientalism: Arabs, Muslims, Moors, and their Representations in Progressive Era American Popular Culture,” requested in August 2010 to submit to *Islam and the Atlantic World: New Paradigms from Latin America and the Caribbean*, edited by Aisha Khan, New York University.

Book Reviews:

Derek Chang, *Citizens of a Christian Nation: Evangelical Missions and the Problem of Race in the Nineteenth Century* (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2010), submitted January 2011 for *The American Historical Review*.

Henry Louis Gates, Jr. & Evelyn Brooks Higginbotham, eds. *Harlem Renaissance Lives: From the African American National Biography*, intro. Cary D. Wintz (New York: Oxford University Press, 2009) in *The Journal of American Ethnic History*, in press.

Barbara Diane Savage, *Your Spirits Walk Beside Us: The Politics of Black Religion* (Cambridge: Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 2008) Featured Review, *The Journal of Southern Religion* 12 (2010), <http://jsr.fsu.edu/Volume12/>

Colin Grant, *Negro With a Hat: The Rise and Fall of Marcus Garvey* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2008) in *American Studies*, 50 no. 1/2 (Spring/Summer 2010), in press.

Davarian L. Baldwin, *Chicago's New Negroes: Modernity, The Great Migration, and Black Urban Life* (Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 2007) in *The Journal of African American History*, 93 no. 3 (June 2008): 452-454.

Mary G. Rolinson, *Grassroots Garveyism: The Universal Negro Improvement Association in the Rural South, 1920-1927* (Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 2007) in *American Studies*, 48 no. 3 (Fall 2007): 169-170.

HONORS AND AWARDS

National Endowment for the Humanities Long-Term Fellowship, The Newberry Library, 2010-2011.

Harry Ransom Center, The University of Texas at Austin, Research Fellow, 2011.

Book Subvention Award, Friends of the Hall Center, The University of Kansas, 2011.

Black Metropolitan Research Consortium Fellowship, The University of Chicago, August 2010.

William S. Vaughn Visiting Fellowship, Robert Penn Warren Center for the Humanities, Vanderbilt

University, 2010-2011, declined.

Month-Long Research Grant, The University of Wisconsin-Madison Libraries, July 2010.

Research Grant, Duke University Rare Book, Manuscript, and Special Collections Library, June 2010.

General Research Fund Grant, The University of Kansas, May 2011.

General Research Fund Grant, The University of Kansas, May 2010.

General Research Fund Grant, The University of Kansas, May 2009.

New Faculty General Research Fund Grant, The University of Kansas, May 2008.

Gilder-Lehrman Fellowship, Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Columbia University, June 2007.

Andrew W. Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow, Wesleyan University, Center for the Humanities, 2006 – 2007.

Donald C. Gallup Fellowship in American Literature, Beinecke Library, Yale University, September 2006.

Mellon Postdoctoral Fellowship, Center for the Study of Cultures, Rice University, 2006-2008, declined.

Transnational and Transcolonial Studies Paper Prize, University of California Research Group, 2002.

Carey McWilliams Four-Year Fellowship, UCLA Department of History, 1999 – 2004.

Jacob Javits Fellowship, U.S. Department of Education, 1999 – 2004, declined.

Golden Medal in the Humanities, Stanford University, 1996.

Research Grant, UCLA Center for African American Studies, 2001.

Yearlong Research Mentorship Grant, UCLA Graduate Division, 2001.

Summer Research Mentorship Grant, UCLA Graduate Division, 2000.

Stanford University Department of History Brand Fund Award, 1996.

Stanford University Robert M. Golden Major Research Grant & Dorot Foundation Travel Grant, 1995.

CONFERENCES and INVITED LECTURES

“Sex Magic, Orientalism, and the Rise of African American New Religious Movements.” Newberry Colloquium, June 2011.

“Black Religion Beyond ‘Roots’: Bishop Crowdy, Bishop Christian, and the Holiness Church ‘Rhizomes’ of Black Israelite Judaism, 1892-1908. Invited Lecture, Temple University, April 2011.

“‘We are Israelites but not Jews:’ Orientalism and Israelism in the Holiness-Pentecostal Movement and the Beginnings of Black Israelite Religions in the 1890s.” Jews and Judaism in Black Africa and its Diasporas Conference, School of Oriental and African Studies, London, October 2010.

“Reappraising Melville J. Herskovits' Conceptual Frameworks in Light of His Early Physical Anthropology,” part of “Reappraising Melville J. Herskovits: Scholarship At and Beyond the Heart of Blackness,” featured panel, panel convener, Association for the Study of African American Life and History, Raleigh, NC, October 2010.

“‘Mr. Black man, where is your religion?’: Black Spiritualists and the Contested Genealogies of African American Religions,” Mumbo Jumbo: Critical Perspectives on Black Atlantic Sacred Arts, UCLA, June 2010.

“Circus, Shriners, and Fairs, Oh My: Orientalism in American Popular Culture and the Rise of Twentieth Century Black Islam,” part of “American Orientalisms,” panel co-convenor.
American Historical Association Conference, San Diego, California, January 2010.

“‘The Scrubwoman of Civilization:’ Black Women and Black Discourses of Civilization,”
Respectability Colloquium, Hall Center for the Humanities, The University of Kansas, November 2009.

“The West Indian Formerly Known as ‘Dusé Mohamed Ali’ and the Black Orientalist Origins of Pan-Africanism,” part of “West Indian Transnational Political Activism,” panel convenor.
Association for the Study of African American Life and History, Cincinnati, Ohio, October 2009.

“Black Orientalism: African American Jews, Muslims and Other Chosen People from Slavery to the Harlem Renaissance,” Second International Conference on Orientalisms, U.C. Merced, April 2009.

“Religion and the Performance of Blackness in the Broadway Musical *Passing Strange*,”
Performance Seminar, Hall Center for the Humanities, The University of Kansas, November 2008.

“The Post-Black Aesthetic in a New Broadway Musical: Religion and the Performance of Race,”
Association for Cultural Studies Crossroads Conference, Mona, Jamaica, the University of the West Indies, July 2008.

“Circus, Shriners, and Fairs, Oh My: An Alternative History of Black Islam and American Orientalism,”
Jesse B. Semple Brownbag Series, Langston Hughes Center, The University of Kansas, September 2008.

“Black Folks Passing for Black Folks:” Anti-Essentialism and Post-Blackness in STEW’s 2007 rock musical, *Passing Strange*,”
Association for the Study of African American Life and History, Charlotte, October 2008.

“Class and Conduct During the Harlem Renaissance,”
The Harlem Renaissance Revisited Conference, The University of Connecticut, March 2008.

“Black Orientalism and Black Gods of the Metropolis.”
Revisiting *Black Gods of the Metropolis* Symposium: African American Religions in the Twentieth Century.
Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis, April 2007.

“Black Orientalism: Ideas of the East in African American Religions of the 1920’s.”
American Historical Association Conference, Atlanta, January 2007.

“Black Israelites and the Polycultural Construction of African American Religion in the 1920’s.”
Center for the Humanities, Wesleyan University, November 2006.

Roundtable, Freeman Asian/Asian American Studies Initiative on the theme of “War, Intimate Trauma and Asian American and African American Crossings,” Wesleyan University, November 2006.

“Freemasonry, Religion, and African American Civil Society, 1919-1939,”
Association for the Study of African American Life and History, Atlanta, September 2006.

“‘Science and Oriental is Great Wonder:’ The Black Orientalism of Professors of Oriental and African Mystic Science During the Harlem Renaissance,”
Fifty Years Beyond Bandung Conference, Cleveland State University, April 2006.

“Black Orientalism: Rethinking Black Alternative Religions,”
Department of History, Howard University, April 2006.

“‘Savage Blackness:’ Skin Bleach and the Racial Formation of the ‘Negro,’”
Variations on Blackness Conference, Indiana University, March 2006.

“Skin-Bleaching and the Discourse of Civilization in 1920’s Harlem,”
Race and Africana Studies Conference, University of Connecticut, March 2006.

“Popular Culture and the Discourse of Civilization during the Harlem Renaissance,”
Invited lecture, Department of History, Florida International University, December 2005.

“Reinvention, Performance, and the Alchemy of Race: the Multiple Contexts of Black Israelism,”
The Future of African-American Studies Conference, Harvard University, 2000.

“I saw you disappear with my own eyes: Black Israelites in Harlem,” The Pious and the Profane: Religion and
Public Culture, Western Humanities Conference, University of Washington, 2000.

“Pentecostalism and Freemasonry in the Black Israelite Faith of Harlem, New York,”
UCLA African Studies Conference, 2000.

EDITORIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE

Special Projects, Martin Luther King, Jr., Research and Education Institute, Stanford University,
Worked on public programs, new media and fundraising, 2005 – 2006.

Contributing Editor, Marcus Garvey Papers Project, UCLA, *The Rastafari Bible*, 1999 – 2000.
Wrote annotations and helped edit a forthcoming book of primary sources on Rastafarianism.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

The University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS, *Assistant Professor*
History, American Studies, and African and Afro-American Studies courses:

AMS 101 Understanding America/AAAS 116 The Black Experience in the Americas:
Blackness, Whiteness, and Racism
HIST 129/131 United States History from the Civil War to the Present
AMS 805 American Pluralism: Race Ethnicity & Religion in American Life/HIST 801 Theory and
Black History
HIST 696 Race and Religion in the United States
AMS 802 Theory and American Studies (Graduate Core)
AMS 100 Introduction to American Studies
HIST 312/AMS 312 The History of American Cultures, 1877 to the Present
HIST/AMS/AAAS 337 Magicians, Masons & Ministers: Black Religions from Slavery to Hip Hop

Wesleyan University, Middletown, CT, *Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow*, upper division seminar:
“African American Urban Religious History,” Winter 2007.

New College of California, San Francisco, CA, *Instructor*, history seminar:
“Whiteness and Racism: Race and Myth 1800-2000,” Winter 2006.

UCLA, Department of History, Los Angeles, CA *Teaching Assistant* and *Teaching Associate*:
African American History, 1865-present, Spring 2001.

The United States from 1800 to 1900, Winter 2001.
An Introduction to Western Civilization, French Revolution-present, Fall 2000.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Association for the Study of African American Life and History
Association for the Study of the Worldwide African Diaspora
American Academy of Religion
American Historical Association
American Studies Association
Organization of American Historians

LANGUAGES

French (reading)