

Baz Dreisinger
BDreisinger@JJay.CUNY.edu

EDUCATION

Columbia University <i>Dissertation: "Near Black: White-to-Black Passing in 19th- and 20th-Century American Culture"</i> <i>Committee: Robert O'Meally, Ann Douglas, Rachel Adams</i>	Ph.D. English	2002
Columbia University	M.Phil	2000
Columbia University	M.A.	1998
Queens College, City University of New York	B.A. English, Philosophy	1997

HONORS AND AWARDS

PSC-CUNY Grant (Interdisciplinary Studies)	2008-2009
CUNY Special Research Fund	2008-2009
PSC-CUNY Grant (Interdisciplinary Studies)	2007-2008
CUNY Caribbean Exchange Program Grant to Jamaica	2007-2008
CUNY Research Assistance Grant	2007-2008
Travel Research Grant to Trinidad, Fund for Investigative Journalism	2006
Whiting Dissertation Fellowship, Columbia University	2001-2002
Whiting Grant For Travel Research in Japan	2001
Dean's Summer Research Fellowship, Columbia University	2000
Mellon Fellowship in the Humanities, Columbia University	1997-1998
President's Fellow, Columbia University	1998-2002
Phi Beta Kappa Scholar Award, Queens College	1997
Valedictorian of the class of 1997, Queens College	1997

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS AND PAPERS

BOOKS

Near Black: White-to-Black Passing in American Culture. Amherst and Boston: University of Massachusetts Press, 2008. *Reviewed in the *New York Times Sunday Book Review* 1/25/09; featured on National Public Radio's "News & Notes" on 3/10/09.

ACADEMIC ARTICLES

"Is Reggae Rum? Caribbean Tunes and the American Music Industry." *Jamaica Journal* 32.3 (Spring 2010): 38-46.

"Should Babylon Release The Cure?: True Reflections on Freedom, Prison, Art and the 'Reggae-Star Rapist.'" *Souls* 10. 3 (July-September 2008): 292-301.

"Dying to be Black: White-to-Black Racial Passing in Chesnutt's 'Mars Jeems's Nightmare,' Griffin's *Black Like Me*, and Van Peebles's *Watermelon Man*." *Prospects* 28 (Fall 2003): 519-42.

"The Queen in Shining Armor: Safe Eroticism and the Gay Best Friend." *The Journal of Popular Film and Television* 28.1 (Spring 2000): 2-11.

"Behold the Hope of Him is in Vain': A Hebraic Reading of *Moby-Dick*." *Melville Society Extracts* 114 (September 1998): 1-6.

FILMS

Rhyme & Punishment (4/11, Image Entertainment).

Documentary film about hip-hop culture and the prison-industrial complex. I produced and co-wrote the film, directed by Academy Award-nominated Peter Spirer. Premiere: LA United Film Festival, 5/09. Aired: FUSE, Showtime.

Black & Blue: Legends of the Hip-Hop Cop (6/06, QD3/Image Entertainment).

Documentary film profiles a retired NYPD detective who founded a unit to monitor rap stars, and tracks the evolution of his unit into an entity that activists deem guilty of racial profiling. I produced and wrote the film, directed by Peter Spirer. Aired: BET, Showtime.

RADIO BROADCASTS PRODUCED FOR NATIONAL PUBLIC RADIO (NPR)

"Marley': A History on Film of the Man Turned 'Legend'." Aired on All Things Considered, 20 April 2012.

"Reggae in the UK: A Steady Force." Aired on All Things Considered, 21 March 2012.

"Non-Jamaican Reggae: Who's Making it and Who's Buying it." Aired on Weekend Edition, 12 November 2011.

"Reggae Loves Country: A 50-Year Romance." Aired on All Things Considered, 1 September 2011.

"Peter Tosh: Reclaiming a Wailer." Aired on Weekend Edition, 9 July 2011.

"Lee 'Scratch' Perry: Over 75 Years, From Dub to Dubstep." Aired on Weekend Edition, 23 April 2011.

"Soca: The Music of Trinidad's Carnival." Aired on Weekend Edition, 6 March 2011.

"Reggae SumFest Thrives Despite Violence in Jamaica." Aired on All Things Considered, 30 August 2010.

BOOK REVIEWS

Review of *Def Jam Recordings: The First 25 Years of America's Last Great Record Label*. *New York Times Book Review* 2 December 2011: 37.

Review of *Ice*, by Ice-T and Douglas Century. *New York Times Book Review* 24 April 2011: 11.

Review of *Bob Marley: The Untold Story*, by Chris Salewicz. *New York Times Book Review* 4 July 2010: 5.

Review of *The Book of Rhymes: The Poetics of Hip-Hop*, by Adam Bradley. *New York Times Book Review*, 13 September 2009: 8.

Review of *Passing Strange*, by Martha Sandweiss. *New York Times Book Review*, 8 March 2009: 11.

Review of *Reggae Scrapbook*. By Roger Steffens and Peter Simon. *New York Times Book Review*, 1 June 2008: 15.

Review of *Somebody Scream! Rap Music's Rise to Prominence in the Aftershock of Black Power*. By Marcus Reeves. *New York Times Book Review*, 23 March 2008: 26.

Review of *Dark Reflections*. By Samuel Delany. *New York Times Book Review* 9 September 2007: 37.

Review of *Off the Record: A Reporter Lifts the Velvet Rope on Hollywood, Hip-Hop, And Sports*. By

Allison Samuels. *New York Times Book Review* 28 March 2007: 23.

Review of *The Poem That Changed America: "Howl" Fifty Years Later*. Ed. Jason Shinder. *New York Observer* 10 April 2006.

Review of Kristoffer Garin's *Devils on the Deep Blue Sea: The Dreams, Schemes and Showdowns That Built America's Cruise-Ship Empires*. *New York Observer* 25 July 2005.

Review of David Brooks's *On Paradise Drive: How We Live Now (and Always Have) in the Future Tense*. *New York Observer* 31 May 2004.

RELEVANT JOURNALISM

"When Cricket was a Symbol, Not Just a Sport." *New York Times* 15 July 2011: AR 12.

"Deport Me! Foreign-Born in American Prisons and the U.S. Culture of Punishment." *Huffington Post* 2 April 2011.

"Reggae's Civil War." *Village Voice* 2 March 2010: 1.

"Crime, Punishment...and MTV." *Salon* 31 March 2009.

"Not Ready to Die: How Jamaica's Volatile Dancehall Scene Can Avoid a Biggie vs. Tupac Tragedy." *Village Voice* 6 August 2008: 68.

"Rap's Ego Trip." *Los Angeles Times* 14 October 2007: F13

"Reggae Star's Out of Prison, Into a Debate." *Los Angeles Times* 30 September 2007: F13.

"Trinidad's First Terror Trial to Feature Muslim Leader." *Miami Herald* 24 December 2006: A12.

"Balancing Act: To Bounce or to Burn? A Dancehall Dilemma for Jamaica's Dangerous Days." *Village Voice* 16 November 2005: 62.

"Spot the Jew." *The Modern Jewish Girl's Guide to Guilt*. New York: Dutton, 2005. 173-181.

"Insight Vs. Incite: Hip-Hop and Media Literacy." *Los Angeles Times* 17 July 2005: E41.

"Hard Rhymes: Hip-Hop's Prison Rap." *Los Angeles Times* 3 April 2005: E1.

"In Radical Matrimony: *Thunder in Guyana*." *The Nation* 7 March 2005: 25-28.

"'The Closest of Strangers': Kushner's *Caroline, or Change*." *The Nation* 26 January 2004: 32-36.

"The Whitest Black Girl on TV." *New York Times* 26 September 2003: 24.

"'Passing' and the American Dream." *Salon* 3 September 2004.

"Jamaica's New Music Revolution." *Salon* 14 March 2004.

"Tokyo After Dark: Black Culture and Reggae Music in Japan." *Vibe* August 2002: 30-35.

PAPERS PRESENTED

"Beyond the Race Box: The Census, the Hip-Hop Generation, the President and American Racial Identity." Paper presented at American Studies Association of Korea annual conference, Seoul National University, Korea. October, 2009.

"Policing the Beat: American National Identity and Fears of Hip-Hop Culture." Paper presented at the "Narratives of Nationhood" Conference, School of International Studies, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore. March, 2009.

"Is Reggae Rum? Caribbean Sounds and the American Music Trade." Paper presented at Caribbean Studies Association Annual Conference, San Andres, Colombia. May, 2008; and at Southwest Council of Latin American Studies Conference, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. March, 2009.

"Should Babylon Release the Cure? True Reflections on Freedom, Prison, Art and the 'Reggae-Star Rapist.'" Presented at the Caribbean Studies Association conference, Salvador, Brazil. May, 2007; and the Conference of the Society for Caribbean Research, Montego Bay, Jamaica. December, 2007.

"What Happened to Gangsta Rap?" Paper presented at the Center for African-American Studies, UCLA. March, 2003.

"Narratives of White Slavery in America: The Case of Salome Muller." Paper presented at Annual Comparative Literature Conference, California State University, Long Beach. March, 2001.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

John Jay College of Criminal Justice, CUNY Assoc. Professor 9/05-present
Tenured Associate Professor: literature, film, Caribbean studies, African-American studies.
Courses taught: Modern Literature: Colonialism, Postcolonialism and the Caribbean;
American/African-American Literature Survey; The Crime Film; Crime and Punishment in Literature
and Film; New York City in Film; The Films of Spike Lee; Senior Seminar: Representations of Prisons
in Literature and Film.

New York State Prison-to-College Pipeline Academic Director 8/11-present
Founder and academic director of a credit-bearing college program at Otisville Correctional Facility,
designed to funnel incarcerated men into the CUNY system upon their release. Teaching English at
the prison and coordinating academic offerings at the prison, including bringing John Jay students to
the prison to take part in learning exchange sessions with the incarcerated men.

Queens College, CUNY Adjunct, English 6/01-6/04
Developed curriculum for and taught "The American Dream" (American Studies/ English) and an
interdisciplinary graduate seminar, "The Boundaries of Race in American Culture."

University of California, Los Angeles Postdoctoral Fellow 2002-03
Fellow in Ethnic Studies at the Center for African-American Studies.

Columbia University Instructor 9/99-5/01
Taught Logic and Rhetoric, Columbia's required freshman composition course.

Harlem Educational Activities Fund Instructor 11/98-3/01
Worked with disadvantaged high-school students; developed and taught a pre-college seminar.

Loyola Marymount College, Los Angeles Instructor 7/00, 7/01
As part of Johns Hopkins's Center for Talented Youth, developed curriculum for and taught a college-
level course on writing and popular culture, and mystery in literature and film.

Queens College, CUNY Lecturer 8/98-12/98
Developed curriculum for and led a 120-student lecture on philosophy and cultural studies.

Columbia University Teaching Assistant 9/98-12/98