

SONIC MEMORY BLACK IMAGE— MAKING DR ALEEMA GRAY

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This online course explores the relationship between photography, music and the Black experience beginning with the work of Dennis Morris. With particular focus on his landmark series *Growing Up Black*, we examine how images have captured, shaped and challenged representations of Britishness, cultural memory and musical subcultures across the decades.

Rather than aiming to define "Black British identity", this course interrogates the instability of such terms. It approaches image-making and preservation as a site of refusal, memory-work and rebellion. Blending archival inquiry, critical theory and creative practice, we will look at how photography and sound function as tools of resistance, futurity and storytelling in the face of erasure.

Guided by an anti-disciplinary approach, the course invites participants to move between theory, oral history, sonic response and visual experimentation – drawing from HOUSE OF DREAD's methodology of working across, beyond and outside conventional disciplinary boundaries.



COURSE MATERIAL & PREPERATION

READING

- Caroline Bressey, Meleisa Ono-George, Diana Paton, Kennetta Hammond Perry and Sadiah Qureshi, 'Introduction: Reflections on Black British Histories in History Workshop Journal', *History Workshop Journal*, 202
- Paul Gilroy – *Ain't No Black in the Union Jack* (1987)
- Paul Gilroy – *Small Acts: Thoughts on the Politics of Black Cultures* (1993)
- hook, bell Art on My Mind: Visual Politics (The New Press: New York, 1995)
- Louis Chude-Sokei – *The Sound of Culture: Diaspora and Black Technopoetics* (2015)
- Julian Henriques – *Sonic Bodies: Reggae Sound Systems, Performance Techniques and Ways of Knowing* (2011)
- Monique Charles – *Black Music in Britain in the 21st Century* (2021)
- Tao Leigh Goffe – *Radio Silence: Black Technologies and the Sound of Britain's Dying Colonialism* (2024)
- Stuart Hall – "Cultural Identity and Diaspora" (1990)

LOOKING + LISTENING

- Dennis Morris – *Growing Up Black* (2002)
- Prof. Julian Henriques on What Music Makers Know – https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ik2_TdTztug
- *Studying the Conuncture – STUART HALL: THROUGH THE PRISM OF AN INTELLECTUAL LIFE* – <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bHpht1nNtB0>
- *Conuncture: Jordan T. Camp on Conjunctural Analysis | S3 Ep3* – <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bDTcp6u04XU>

GROWING UP BLACK: THE IMAGE AS AN ARCHIVE

Monday 15th September 6:30-8:00pm

This session focuses on Growing Up Black, offering a critical reading of Dennis Morris' photographs and situating them within their historical, social and emotional contexts. Together, we explore how images function as both social documents and living, evolving archives. We also examine the tensions between representation, gaze and lived experience



COURSE MATERIAL & PREPERATION

READING

- Hall, Stuart. "What Is This 'Black' in Black Popular Culture?" *Social Justice*, vol. 20, no. 1/2 (51 52), 1993, pp. 104-14
- bell hooks – *Black Looks: Race and Representation* (1992)
- Dennis Morris – *Growing Up Black* (2002)
- Paul Gilroy – *Small Acts: Thoughts on the Politics of Black Cultures* (1993), Chapter 1 ("Sounds Authentic")
- Stuart Hall – "New Ethnicities" (1989 essay)
- Hammond Kenetta Perry, *London Is the Place for Me: Black Britons, Citizenship, and the Politics of Race* (University of Oxford Press, 2016)
- Palmer, Lisa Amanda, "Each One Teach One" Visualising Black Intellectual Life in Handsworth beyond the Epistemology of "White Sociology", *Identities*, 27.1 (2020), 91-113

LOOKING + LISTENING

- Dennis Morris – *Growing Up Black* (2002)
- Jade Bentil and Meleisa Ono George:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zYr1-STsvo0>

SOUND + STYLE: SUBCULTURE AS SURVIVAL

Monday 22nd September 6:30-8:00pm

This week traces connections between subculture, resistance and imagination. We examine how Black youth have used music and style to assert identity and reclaim space. We also explore cross-generational parallels (from rude boys to punks to lovers rock) and consider how these scenes shape collective and individual modes of survival.



COURSE MATERIAL & PREPERATION

READING

- Dick Hebdige – Subculture: The Meaning of Style (1979)
- Stuart Hall & Tony Jefferson (eds.) – Resistance Through Rituals: Youth Subcultures in Post-War Britain (1976, 2006 reissue)
- Ernest Cashmore & Barry Troyna (eds.) – Black Youth in Crisis (1982)
- Henry, William Lez, 'Reggae, Rasta and the Role of the Deejay in the Black British Experience', Contemporary British History, 2012
- Campbell, Horace, Rasta and Resistance (London: Hansib Publications, 1986)

LOOKING + LISTENING

- Dennis Morris – Growing Up Black (2002)
- Mykaell Riley Interview. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AFXj7HymFzl>

THE PHOTOGRAPH AS SOUND: REASONING WITH THE IMAGE

Monday 29th September 6:30-8:00pm

Here we experiment with listening to photographs as carriers of sound, spirit and memory. We Interrogate how sonic elements and oral traditions live within images, and reflect on methods of engaging with photographs – foregrounding listening, dialogue and embodied memory as critical tools.



COURSE MATERIAL & PREPERATION

READING

- Campt, Tina M. Listening to Images. Duke University Press, 2017.
- Ato Quayson – Calibrations: Reading Photography in the African Diaspora (2013)
- The Sonic Gaze: Jazz, Whiteness, and Racialized Listening, By T Storm Heter

LOOKING + LISTENING

- Tina Campt: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DPmx2xolliQ&pp=ygUTbGlzdGVuaW5nIHRvIGltYWdlc9IHCOmyCQG HKiGM7w%3D%3D>
- Professor Julian Henriques Talk: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xQQn8pxBYiQ>

WORK IN PROGRES WITH DR NATHANIAL TELEMAQUE

Monday 6th October 6:30-8:00pm

In this session, Dr Nathaniel Telemaque gives insight into their work, providing opportunity for participants to engage directly with a creative process, learning more about projects in development, and wider issues and themes within a contemporary Black photographic practice. Together we will explore and discuss the value of failure, messiness and emergence as part of the artist process.

Nathaniel Télémaque is a North West London-born and raised visual artist, writer, and researcher. Nathaniel earned his PhD in Geography (practice-related) from University College London. His interests are in Global Black geographies, urban and cultural geographies, visual practices, and archival research.

COURSE MATERIAL & PREPERATION



BUNNING BABYLON: COUNTER ARCHIVES + FUGITIVE MEMORY

Monday 13th October 6:30-8:00pm

In our final session we examine counter-archives. How do they disrupt dominant narratives and institutional memory? This session looks at creative strategies for working with absence and silence. We consider creative practice as an act of care, resistance and world-making. There will also be space to return to the course's central provocations and share personal and collective responses. We will reflect together on the role of the imagination in sustaining cultural memory and opening new ideas for future thinking.



COURSE MATERIAL & PREPERATION

READING

- Robin Kelly. Freedom Dreams. the black radical imagination
- Brown, Ruth. "Archives of Absence: Fugitive Memories and Black Cultural Resistance." History Workshop Journal 89 (2020): 98–116
- Moten, Fred, and Stefano Harney. The Undercommons: Fugitive Planning and Black Study. Minor Compositions, 2013
- Aleema Gray. Bun Babylon. Phd Thesis. University of Warwick
- King Tiffany Lethabo, The Black Shoals: Offshore Formations of Black and Native Studies, (Duke University Press 2019)
- Hesse, Banor, Un/Settled Multiculturalisms: Diasporas, Entanglements, Transruptions (Zed Books, 2000)
- Towards fugtivity : <https://www.erudit.org/en/journals/acme/2023-v22-n5-acme08883/1107308ar.pdf>

LOOKING + LISTENING

- Iwoyi - within the echo: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XvFlqwvfS6Y&list=RDxvFlqwvfS6Y&start_radio=1
- Memory work as care: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mq45rTP3R4I>