



ARCHIVING HIP HOP: 50 Years of History in the Making

50 years have now passed since Kool DJ Herc plugged in his soundsystem at his sister Cindy Campbell's back-to-school party at 1520 Sedgwick Avenue in the South Bronx on 11 August 1973. This party would eventually be remembered globally as the 'birth of hip hop' and as such it marks a starting point of hip hop as an African diasporic culture that is celebrated and practiced around the world. In the 1980s and 1990s British hip hop kicked off and slowly but steadily found its own identity and branched off into several unique musical and cultural expressions. Recording artists such as The Criminal Minds, Congo Natty and Shut Up & Dance successfully fused hip hop music and culture with other existing art forms such as House and Reggae music to pioneer new musical genres such as Rave, Jungle and Drum & Bass.

With this conference and exhibition we want to highlight how global hip hop practitioners and hip hop scholars remember, historicise and archive the culture locally. The exhibition will bring to light memorabilia, artefacts and images from the local Milton Keynes hip hop scene from the late 1980s to the mid 1990s. We will invite local breakers, graffiti artists, emcees, deejays, musicians and knowledge producers to showcase their art and culture and reflect on the past and the future of hip hop in Milton Keynes, in the United Kingdom and in the world.

Parallel to the exhibition, we will also host a conference, for which we will invite scholars and practitioners to examine how hip hop can be archived, what institutional and cultural challenges such archiving might entail and how we can work collaboratively with local scenes to represent the varied histories of hip hop in ways that are accurate and fair. We invite participants to reflect on the following questions:

- What happens when hip hop is exhibited in museums?**
- How can we archive hip hop knowledge, practices and artefacts?**
- What data repositories and hardware are necessary for archiving hip hop?**
- How can hip hop archives be funded, sustained and made accessible for the people?**
- How to deal with copyright and sampling?**
- Who are hip hop archives for?**
- How can universities and cultural organisations support hip hop archives?**

Apart from standard academic talks and keynote addresses, the conference will also feature novel formats of knowledge production and dissemination, such as knowledge-droppin cyphers, graffiti literacies or scratchin-the-surface of ideas sessions. We want to emphasise that knowledge production within hip hop is both an intellectual and an embodied practice, so we explicitly invite participants to experiment with novel ways of presenting their ideas - in a hip hop way. If you are unsure about what could be possible, feel free to discuss your plans with us beforehand. Just drop us a message.

We invite academics and hip hop scholars from around the world to participate and give 15-minute talks followed by discussions, either on-site or online. Please send 300-word abstracts with your ideas for a presentation to hiphop@open.ac.uk by 30th June 2023.



BME
NETWORK



The Open
University

28TH - 29TH
SEPTEMBER
2023

CALL FOR PAPERS

**DEADLINE FOR
ALL SUBMISSIONS:
30TH JUNE 2023**

Email all submissions to
hiphop@open.ac.uk

[Additional Info](https://www.open.edu/openlearncreate/hiphop)

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CONFERENCE TEAM

Barry 'DJ Kraze One' Watson,
Sas Amoah, Claudia Torres
Fernández, Marcus Young and
Jaspal Naveel Singh

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Hanifa McQueen-Hudson, UK's
1st BGirl, Wolverhampton, UK

James Jessop, Graffiti Writing
Obsessive, Glasgow, UK

**Frederik 'Torch' Hahn and
Bryan Vit**, Hip-Hop-Archiv
Heidelberg, Germany

Kaptin Barrett, Hip Hop
Coordinator at Amgueddfa Cymru /
Museum Wales, UK

Silhouette Bushay, Senior
Lecturer in Education Studies,
University of East London, UK

Anthony Gunter, Senior Lecturer,
Childhood and Youth Studies, The
Open University, UK