



# Black Studies

## Recently-Published Library Acquisitions

### Coming Soon



***Born on a Tuesday: A Novel*** by Elnathan John (May) From two-time Caine Prize finalist Elnathan John, a dynamic young voice from Nigeria, *Born on a Tuesday* is a stirring, starkly rendered first novel about a young boy struggling to find his place in a society that is fracturing along religious and political lines.

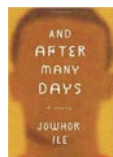


***Homegoing: A Novel*** by Yaa Gyasi (June) A novel of breathtaking sweep and emotional power that traces three hundred years in Ghana and along the way also becomes a truly great American novel. It reveals a monumental portrait of the forces that shape families and nations with exquisite language, implacable sorrow, and soaring beauty.



***Blacktino Queer Performance*** edited by E. Patrick Johnson and Ramón H. Rivera-Servera (June) Staging an important new conversation between performers and critics this book approaches the interrelations of blackness and Latinidad through a stimulating mix of theory and art. Scripts by established and emerging black and Latina/o queer playwrights and performance artists, each accompanied by an interview and critical essay conducted or written by leading scholars of black, Latina/o, and queer expressive practices.

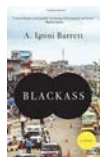
### Novels, Poetry, & Plays



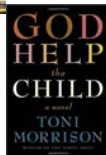
***And After Many Days: A Novel*** by Jowhor Ile. During the rainy season of 1995, in the bustling town of Port Harcourt, Nigeria, one family's life is disrupted by the sudden disappearance of seventeen-year-old Paul Utu, beloved brother and son. As they grapple with the sudden loss of their darling boy, they embark on a painful and moving journey of immense power which changes their lives forever and shatters the fragile ecosystem of their once ordered family. PR6109.L4 A53 2016



***The Animal Too Big to Kill: Poems*** by Shane McCrae. This collection, winner of the 2014 Lexi Rudnitsky Editor's Choice Award, further establishes Shane McCrae as an indispensable poetic voice. With his unmistakable cadences, he probes insistently yet big-heartedly into some paradoxes of belief and righteousness, confronting God from the quagmire of his upbringing: half-Black and raised by White supremacists. PS3613 .C385747 A6 2015



***Blackass: A Novel*** by A. Igoni Barrett. Furo Wariboko, a young Nigerian, awakes the morning before a job interview to find that he's been transformed into a white man. In this condition he plunges into the bustle of Lagos to make his fortune. With his red hair, green eyes, and pale skin, it seems he's been completely changed. Well, almost. There is the matter of his family, his accent, his name. Oh, and his black ass. Furo must quickly learn to navigate a world made unfamiliar and deal with those who would use him for their own purposes. PR9387.9.B365 B5 2016

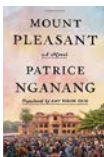


***God Help the Child*** by Toni Morrison. Spare and unsparing, *God Help the Child*—the first novel by Toni Morrison to be set in our current moment—weaves a tale about the way the sufferings of childhood can shape, and misshape, the life of the adult. At the center: a young woman who calls herself Bride, whose stunning blue-black skin is only one element of her beauty, her boldness and confidence, her success in life, but which caused her light-skinned mother to deny her even the simplest forms of love. PS3563 .O8749 G63 2015



***Father Comes Home From the Wars (Parts 1, 2 & 3)*** by Suzan-Lori Parks. Offered his freedom if he joins his master in the ranks of the Confederacy, Hero, a slave, must choose whether to leave the woman and people he loves for what may be another empty promise. As his decision brings him face to face with a nation at war with itself, the ones Hero left behind debate whether to escape or wait for his return, only to discover that for Hero, freedom may have come at a great spiritual cost. PS3566 .A736 F38 2015

## Novels, Poetry, & Plays



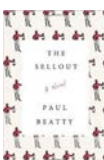
**Mount Pleasant: A Novel** by Patrice Nganang (Author), Amy Reid (Translator) In Cameroon in 1931, Sara is taken from her family and brought to Mount Pleasant as a gift for Sultan Njoya, the Bamum leader cast into exile by French colonialists. Just nine years old and on the verge of becoming one of the sultan's hundreds of wives, Sara's story takes an unexpected turn when she is recognized by Bertha, the slave in charge of training Njoya's brides, as Nebu, the son she lost tragically years before. Seven decades later, a student returns home to Cameroon to research the place it once was, and she finds Sara, silent for decades, ready to tell her story. A resurrection of the world of early-twentieth-century Cameroon and an elegy for the men and women swept up in the forces of colonization. PQ3989.2.N4623



**Roll Deep: Poems** by Major Jackson (Bennington Writing Seminars Faculty) In his fourth collection, a breakthrough volume, Major Jackson appropriates the vernacular notion of "rolling deep" to capture the spirit of aesthetic travel that defines these forceful new poems and brazenly announces his steady accretion of literary and artistic influences, both formal and experimental—his "crew." The confident and radiant poems in *Roll Deep* address a range of topics, most prominently human intimacy and war. And like his best work to date, these poems create new experiences with language owed to Jackson's willingness to once again seek a rhythmic sound that expresses the unique realities of the twenty-first century with humor and understanding. PS3610 .A354 A6 2015



**The Turner House** by Angela Flournoy. For over fifty years the Turners have lived on Yarrow Street. Their house has seen thirteen children get grown and gone—and some return; it has seen the arrival of grandchildren, the fall of Detroit's East Side, and the loss of a father. But when their powerful mother falls ill, the Turners are called home to decide their house's fate and to reckon with how their past haunts—and shapes—their future. *The Turner House* is a striking examination of the price we pay for our dreams, and the ways in which our families bring us home. PS3606 .L6813



**The Sellout: A Novel** by Paul Beatty. A biting satire about a young man's isolated upbringing and the race trial that sends him to the Supreme Court, Paul Beatty's *The Sellout* showcases a comic genius at the top of his game. It challenges the sacred tenets of the United States Constitution, urban life, the civil rights movement, the father-son relationship, and the holy grail of racial equality—the black Chinese restaurant. PS3552 .E19 S45 2016

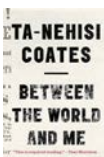


**Welcome to Braggsville** by T. Geronimo Johnson. Born and raised in the heart of old Dixie, D'aron Davenport finds himself in unfamiliar territory his freshman year at UC Berkeley. Two thousand miles and a world away from his childhood, he is a small-town fish floundering in the depths of a large, hyper-liberal pond. A literary coming-of-age novel for a new generation, written with tremendous social insight and a unique, generous heart, *Welcome to Braggsville* reminds us of the promise and perils of youthful exuberance, while painting an indelible portrait of contemporary America. PS3610 .O38339 W45 2015

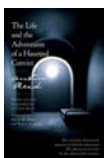
## Essays & Memoirs



**Bad News: The Last Journalists in a Dictatorship** by Anjan Sundaram. *Bad News* is the story of Anjan Sundaram's time running a journalist's training program out of Kigali, the capital city of one of Africa's most densely populated countries, Rwanda. President Kagame's regime, which seized power after the genocide that ravaged its population in 1994, is often held up as a beacon for progress and modernity in Central Africa and is the recipient of billions of dollars each year in aid from Western governments and international organizations. Lurking underneath this shining vision of a modern, orderly state, however, is the powerful climate of fear springing from the government's brutal treatment of any voice of dissent. PN4793 .R39 S86 2016

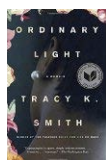


**Between the World and Me** by Ta-Nehisi Coates. In a profound National Book Award-winning work that pivots from the biggest questions about American history and ideals to the most intimate concerns of a father for his son, Ta-Nehisi Coates offers a powerful new framework for understanding our nation's history and current crisis. Americans have built an empire on the idea of "race," a falsehood that damages us all but falls most heavily on the bodies of black women and men—bodies exploited through slavery and segregation, and, today, threatened, locked up, and murdered out of all proportion. E185.615 .C6335 2015



**The Life and Adventures of a Haunted Convict** by Austin Reed. The memoir of Austin Reed, a free black man born in the 1820s who spent most of his early life ricocheting between forced labor in prison and forced labor as an indentured servant. Lost for more than one hundred and fifty years, the handwritten document is the first known prison memoir written by an African American. Reed's text gives a gripping first-person account of an antebellum Northern life lived outside slavery that nonetheless bore, in its day-to-day details, unsettling resemblances to that very institution HV9468 .R44 A3 2016

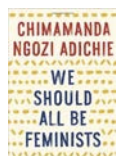
## Essays & Memoirs



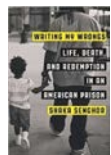
**Ordinary Light: A Memoir** by Tracy K. Smith. A memoir about the author's coming of age as she grapples with her identity as an artist, her family's racial history, and her mother's death from cancer. From the Pulitzer Prize-winning poet: a deeply moving memoir that explores coming-of-age and the meaning of home against a complex backdrop of race, faith, and the unbreakable bond between a mother and daughter. Written with a poet's precision and economy, this gorgeous, probing kaleidoscope of self and family offers us a universal story of belonging and becoming, and the ways we find and lose ourselves amid the places we call home. PS3619 .M5955



**Racial Imaginary: Writers on Race in the Life of the Mind** edited by Claudia Rankine, Beth Loffreda and Max King Cup. Frank, fearless letters from poets of all colors, genders, classes about the material conditions under which their art is made. An expansion and deepening of Rankine's 2011 *Open Letter* web-project, which responded to a poem published by a popular white male poet that made use of a black female body. In response to Rankine's own honesty, writers question, vent, relate the effects and affects of racial difference and explore art's failure, thus far, to adequately imagine. PS228 .R32 R33 2015



**We Should All Be Feminists** by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie. In this personal, eloquently-argued essay Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, award-winning author of *Americanah*, offers readers a unique definition of feminism for the twenty-first century, one rooted in inclusion and awareness. Drawing extensively on her own experiences and her deep understanding of the often masked realities of sexual politics, here is one remarkable author's exploration of what it means to be a woman now—and an of-the-moment rallying cry for why we should all be feminists. HQ1815.5 .A653 2015



**Writing My Wrongs: Life, Death & Redemption in an American Prison** by Shaka Senghor. Senghor was raised in a middle class neighborhood on Detroit's east side during the height of the 1980s crack epidemic. During his nineteen-year incarceration, seven of which were spent in solitary confinement, Senghor discovered tools he used to confront the demons of his past, forgive the people who hurt him, and begin atoning for the wrongs he had committed. Upon his release at age thirty-eight, Senghor became an activist and mentor to young men and women. HV9468 .S46 S46 2016

## New Database

**African American Communities** From communal struggle to creative outpourings: uncover the everyday lives of African Americans spanning two turbulent centuries. This online resource showcases a diverse range of primary source material focusing on race relations across social, political, cultural and religious arenas.

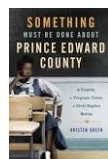
Key themes covered include:

- Desegregation – focusing on schools, hospitals, transport and other areas of public life. Documents show legal battles, campaigns in favor of integration and public reaction.
- Urban renewal and housing problems – featuring papers on housing and race relations, planning records and papers of neighborhood councils.
- Civil rights activities and protests – from material on Atlanta's police department to Chicago riots and student protests at Washington University, St. Louis.
- Race relations and community integration – featuring documents charting increased African American home ownership in Chicago and the infamous Pruitt-Igoe housing project in St. Louis.
- African American culture – documents showcasing an eclectic array of creative expression from artists and actors, to writers and musicians.

## Education

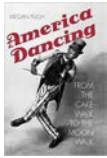


**Pushout: The Criminalization of Black Girls in Schools** by Monique W. Morris. For four years Monique W. Morris, author of *Black Stats*, chronicled the experiences of black girls across the country whose intricate lives are misunderstood, highly judged—by teachers, administrators, and the justice system—and degraded by the very institutions charged with helping them flourish. Morris shows how, despite obstacles, stigmas, stereotypes, and despair, black girls still find ways to breathe remarkable dignity into their lives in classrooms, juvenile facilities, and beyond. LC2731 .M59



**Something Must Be Done About Prince Edward County: A Family, a Virginia Town, a Civil Rights Battle** by Kristen Green. In the wake of the Supreme Court's unanimous *Brown v. Board of Education* decision, Virginia's Prince Edward County refused to obey the law. Rather than desegregate, the county closed its public schools, locking and chaining the doors. The community's white leaders quickly established a private academy, commandeering supplies from the shuttered public schools to use in their all-white classrooms. Meanwhile, black parents had few options: keep their kids at home, move across county lines, or send them to live with relatives in other states. For five years, the schools remained closed. LC214.22 V8 G74 2015

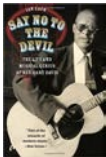
## Music, Visual & Performing Arts



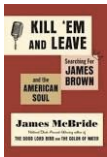
***America Dancing: From the Cakewalk to the Moonwalk*** by Megan Pugh. The history of American dance reflects the nation's tangled culture. Dances were better boundary crossers than their dancers, however, and the issues of race and class that haunt everyday life shadow American dance as well. Deftly narrated, *America Dancing* demonstrates the centrality of dance in American art, life, and identity, taking us to watershed moments when the nation worked out a sense of itself through public movement. GV1623 .P843 2015



***Hamilton: The Revolution*** by Lin-Manuel Miranda and Jeremy McCarter. The Pulitzer Prize winning musical *Hamilton* is as revolutionary as its subject, the poor kid from the Caribbean who fought the British, defended the Constitution, and helped to found the United States. Fusing hip-hop, pop, R&B, and the best traditions of theater, this once-in-a-generation show broadens the sound of Broadway, reveals the storytelling power of rap, and claims our country's origins for a diverse new generation. Includes libretto and photographs from the musical. ML50 .M6773 2016



***Say No to the Devil: The Life and Musical Genius of Rev. Gary Davis*** by Ian Zack. The first biography of Davis, Ian Zack takes readers through Davis's difficult beginning as the blind son of sharecroppers in the Jim Crow South to his decision to become an ordained Baptist minister and his move to New York in the early 1940s, where he scraped out a living singing and preaching on street corners and in storefront churches in Harlem. There, he gained entry into a circle of musicians that included, among many others, Lead Belly, and Dave Van Ronk. Zack chronicles this remarkable figure in American music, helping us to understand how he taught and influenced a generation of musicians. ML419 .D386 Z33 2015



***Kill 'Em and Leave: Searching for James Brown and the American Soul*** by James McBride. National Book Award winner James McBride goes in search of the "real" James Brown after receiving a tip that promises to uncover the man behind the myth. His surprising journey illuminates not only our understanding of this immensely troubled, misunderstood, and complicated soul genius but the ways in which our cultural heritage has been shaped by Brown's legacy. ML420 .B818 M33 2016



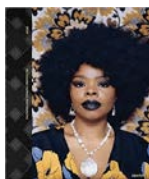
***Theaster Gates*** by Carol Becker. Theaster Gates has developed an expanded artistic practice that includes space development, object making, performance and critical engagement with many publics. Gates transforms spaces, institutions, traditions, and perceptions. Gates's training as an urban planner and sculptor, and subsequent time spent studying clay, has given him keen awareness of the poetics of production and systems of organizing. Playing with these poetic and systematic interests, Gates has assembled gospel choirs, formed temporary unions, and used systems of mass production as a way of underscoring the need that industry has for the body. N6537 .G377 A4 2015



***Dark Space: Architecture, Representation, Black Identity*** by Mario Gooden. This collection of essays by architect Mario Gooden investigates the construction of African American identity and representation through the medium of architecture. African American cultural institutions designed and constructed in recent years often rely on cultural stereotypes, metaphors, and clichés to communicate significance, demonstrating "Africanisms" through form and symbolism—but there is a far richer and more complex heritage to be explored. Presented here is a series of questions that interrogate and illuminate other narratives of "African American architecture," and reveal compelling ways of translating the philosophical idea of the African Diaspora's experience into space. NA2543.R37



***Kehinde Wiley: A New Republic*** by Connie H. Choi. Filled with reproductions of Kehinde Wiley's bold, colorful, and monumental work, this book encompasses the artist's various series of paintings as well as his sculptural work—which boldly explore ideas about race, power, and tradition. Celebrated for his classically styled paintings that depict African American men in heroic poses, Kehinde Wiley is among the expanding ranks of prominent black artists—such as Sanford Biggers, Yinka Shonibare, Mickalene Thomas, and Lynette Yiadom-Boakye—who are reworking art history and questioning its depictions of people of color. ND1329 .W545 A4 2015



***Muse: Mickalene Thomas: Photographs*** by Mickalene Thomas. Mickalene Thomas, known for her large-scale, multitextured and rhinestone-encrusted paintings of domestic interiors and portraits, identifies the photographic image as a defining touchstone for her practice. Thomas began to photograph herself and her mother as a student at Yale. The work is a personal act of deconstruction and reappropriation. Working primarily in her studio, Thomas' portraits draw equally from memories of her mother, 1970s black-is-beautiful images of women such as supermodel Beverly Johnson and actress Vonetta McGee, Édouard Manet's odalisque figures and the mise-en-scène studio portraiture of James Van Der Zee and Malick Sidibé. TR681.W6 T488 2015



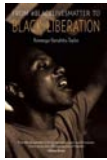
***Kerry James Marshall: Look See*** by Robert Storr. Over the course of almost three decades, Kerry James Marshall has produced a complex body of work exploring the representation of African Americans in society, culture and art history. Working across various media in portraits, interiors, nudes and landscapes, Marshall conflates actual and imagined events from African American history and culture and integrates a range of stylistic influences to address the limited historiography of black art. ND237.M24623 A4 2015



## Society & Culture



***The Third Reconstruction: Moral Mondays, Fusion Politics, and the Rise of a New Justice Movement*** by Rev. Dr. William J. Barber II. Rev. Barber writes movingly and pragmatically about how he laid the groundwork for a state-by-state movement that unites black, white, and brown, rich and poor, employed and unemployed, gay and straight, documented and undocumented, religious and secular. Only such a diverse fusion movement, Rev. Barber argues, can heal our nation's wounds and produce public policy that is morally defensible, constitutionally consistent, and economically sane. BR516 .B337 2016



***From #BlackLivesMatter to Black Liberation*** by Keeanga-Yamahtta Taylor. The eruption of mass protests in the wake of the police murders of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri and Eric Garner in New York City have challenged the impunity with which officers of the law carry out violence against Black people and punctured the illusion of a post-racial America. Taylor surveys the historical and contemporary ravages of racism and persistence of structural inequality such as mass incarceration and Black unemployment. In this context, she argues that this new struggle against police violence holds the potential to reignite a broader push for Black liberation. E185.86 T367 2016



***Dark Matters*** by Simone Browne. This book examines the conditions of blackness as a key site through which surveillance is practiced, narrated, and resisted. She shows how contemporary surveillance technologies and practices are informed by the long history of racial formation and by the methods of policing black life under slavery, such as branding, runaway slave notices, and lantern laws. Surveillance is both a discursive and material practice that reifies boundaries, borders, and bodies around racial lines, so much so that the surveillance of blackness has long been, and continues to be, a social and political norm. E185.86 B76 2015



***Humanitarian Aftershocks in Haiti*** by Mark Schuller. The 2010 earthquake in Haiti was one of the deadliest disasters in modern history, sparking an international aid response—with pledges and donations of \$16 billion—that was exceedingly generous. But now, five years later, that generous aid has clearly failed. The book shows how Haitian people were removed from any real decision-making, replaced by a top-down, NGO-dominated system of humanitarian aid, led by an army of often young, inexperienced foreign workers. Ignorant of Haitian culture, aid workers unwittingly enacted policies that triggered a range of negative results. HV600 2010 .H2 S38 2016



***Chasing the Scream: The First and Last Days of the War on Drugs*** by Johann Hari. The stories of people across the world whose lives have been transformed by this war. They range from a transsexual crack dealer in Brooklyn searching for her mother, to a teenage hit-man in Mexico searching for a way out. It begins with Hari's discovery that at the birth of the drug war, Billie Holiday was stalked and killed by the man who launched this crusade—and it ends with the story of a doctor who has led his country to decriminalize every drug, from cannabis to crack, with remarkable results. HV5825 .H234 2015



***Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City*** by Matthew Desmond. Even in the most desolate areas of American cities, evictions used to be rare. But today, most poor renting families are spending more than half of their income on housing, and eviction has become ordinary, especially for single mothers. In vivid, intimate prose, Desmond provides a ground-level view of one of the most urgent issues facing America today. HD7287.96.U6 D47 2016

## Films

***Black Panthers: Vanguard of the Revolution*** directed by Stanley Nelson Jr.



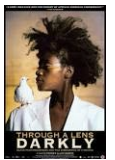
The first feature length documentary to explore the Black Panther Party, its significance to the broader American culture. Master documentarian Stanley Nelson goes straight to the source, weaving a treasure trove of rare archival footage with the voices of the people who were there: police, FBI informants, journalists, white supporters and detractors, and Black Panthers who remained loyal to the party and those who left it. Featuring Kathleen Cleaver, Jamal Joseph, and many others. DVD Documentary 6403

***Last Day of Freedom*** directed by Dee Hibbert-Jones and Nomi Talisman



When Bill Babbitt realizes his brother Manny has committed a crime he agonizes over his decision—should he call the police? *Last Day of Freedom*, a richly animated personal narrative, tells the story of Bill's decision to stand by his brother in the face of war, crime and capital punishment. The film is a portrait of a man at the nexus of the most pressing social issues of our day—veterans' care, mental health access and criminal justice. DVD Documentary 6471

***Through a Lens Darkly: Black Photographers and the Emergence of a People*** directed by Thomas Allen Harris



The first documentary to explore the role of photography in shaping the identity, aspirations, and social emergence of African Americans from slavery to the present, this film probes the recesses of American history through images that have been suppressed, forgotten, and lost. Bringing to light the hidden and unknown photos the film opens a window into the lives of black families, whose experiences and perspectives are often missing from the traditional historical canon. The film features the works of artists Carrie Mae Weems, Lorna Simpson, Anthony Barboza, Hank Willis Thomas, Coco Fusco, Clarissa Sligh, James Van Der Zee, Gordon Parks, and many others. DVD Documentary 6205