

INDIGENEITY AND BLACKNESS IN HIP-HOP

Presenter: Kyle T. Mays (Saginaw Anishinaabe)



KYLE T. MAYS (he/his) is an Assistant Professor of African American Studies, American Indian Studies, and History at UCLA. He is a transdisciplinary scholar of urban history and studies, Afro-Indigenous Studies, and contemporary popular culture.

He is the author of *Hip Hop Beats, Indigenous Rhymes: Modernity and Hip Hop in Indigenous North America* (SUNY Press, 2018). He teaches courses on Afro-Indigenous history, popular culture, and urban studies. He works with students interested in comparative race and indigeneity, popular and expressive culture, and urban histories and contemporary experiences in the city.

Expressive culture has always been an important part of the social, political, and economic lives of Indigenous people. More recently, Indigenous people have blended expressive cultures with hip hop culture, creating new sounds, aesthetics, movements, and ways of being Indigenous.

Meeting at the nexus of hip hop studies, Indigenous studies, and critical ethnic studies, this event will demonstrate how Indigenous people use hip hop culture to assert their sovereignty and challenge settler colonialism.

In addition, this event will trace the idea of authenticity; that is, the common notion that, by engaging in a Black culture, Indigenous people are losing their “traditions.” Indigenous hip hop artists navigate the muddy waters of the “politics of authenticity” by creating art that is not bound by narrow conceptions of what it means to be Indigenous; instead, they flip the notion of “tradition” and create alternative visions of what being Indigenous means today, and what that might look like going forward.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2021

5:00-6:00PM

ZOOM LINK:

<https://cccconfer.zoom.us/my/culturaldiversitygcc>