

The Color of Consciousness: A Selected Bibliography of African American Studies *

Sathyaraj Venkatesan

[Published or not, and loved or unloved: we persist -- June Jordan]

Bibliographer's Statement

African American studies is an academic field that “combines general intellectual history, academic scholarship in the social sciences and the humanities, and a radical movement for fundamental educational reform” (Alkalimat 1). The sociologist Nathan Hare coordinated the first black studies program and thereafter the department was created in 1968 at San Francisco which gained official status in 1969. Although it burgeoned out of social compulsions and survived, as it were, the hostile institutional climate, African American studies as a programmatic academic inquiry has in recent times unequivocally established within mainstream as well as minority curriculum. With the originary objectives to rediscover, rejuvenate and establish a distinguishable black tradition, the African American department seeks to explore the “structures, moorings, and anchors” (Morrison “Interview” 151) of the black expressive arts such as music, arts and films besides literature, history, sociology from various interdisciplinary perspectives. Skeptics who forecast a premature demise of African American studies—for instance, Shelby Steele at Stanford University observes, “It [African American studies] was a bogus concept from the beginning because it was an idea grounded in politics, not in a particular methodology”—citing its ideological origins and prescriptive nature have been disproved by the explosion of black cultural production and decisive roles of African American departments.

In recent times, African American studies has moved ‘beyond’ the categorical confines of ‘nation’ with a mission to explore the international and transnational linkages among the people

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Sathyaraj Venkatesan <sathya@nitt.edu>: After completing his Ph.D (2008) in the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences at IIT Kanpur, he is presently a Lecturer in English, Department of Humanities at National Institute of Technology (NIT), Trichy. He was a Fellow at the School of Criticism and Theory at Cornell University, New York (2006) and currently an International Field Bibliographer for African American Studies with Publications of Modern Language Association of America (PMLA). His papers have appeared in leading international journals/books

such as *The International Fiction Review*, *ANQ (American Notes and Queries)*, *The Explicator*, *Notes on Contemporary Literature*, *Facts on File Companion to American Literature*, *Encyclopedia of African American Women Writers*.

of African descent. Clustering the black Atlantic geographical entities on the basis of epistemology and ontology of slavery, this diasporal approach concerns the global black consciousness and further, systematically examines the subterranean “connections between the formation of intellectuals, the development of self-help economic institutions, or the construction of cultural and social groupings, which cut across the African Diaspora,” as Manning Marable puts it. Though Laura Chrisman differentiates black internationalism from black Atlantic studies based on its methods, archives and conclusions, the transnational and international mores of these theoretical prototypes remain intact. Paul Gilroy’s “The Black Atlantic,” Brent Hayes Edwards’s “The Practice of Diaspora: Literature, Translation, and the Rise of Black Internationalism,” Alan Rice’s “Radical Narratives of the Black Atlantic,” among others, are paradigmatic texts that uncover hybrid character of the black Atlantica.

Unlike the West, India does not have specialized and dedicated African American departments and therefore, in most instances, it remains a component of general literature. African American literature is invariably part of American literature, Feminist Literature, Ethnic/Minority Literatures, World Literatures where the students are introduced to staple black writers such as Frederick Douglass, Booker T. Washington, Langston Hughes, Ralph Ellison, James Baldwin, Richard Wright, Alex Haley, Toni Morrison, and, Alice Walker. Though one can take respite claiming that India is removed from the political and social mores of African Americans, it remains a fact that India hasn’t really caught up with the international African American literary and cultural scene. Despite these limitations, African American literary studies and cultural criticism are steadily gaining significance in the Indian academia. Increasing number of dissertations and themed special issues such as IRWLE are cases in point. Similarly, academic societies such as MELUS-India (The Society for the Study of the Multi-Ethnic Literature of the United States) capture the multicultural America and “take a look at Indian literatures and place them in a global context.”

To conclude, with institutionalization and internationalization of African American studies, there has been a proliferation of books, journals, e-journals, monographs, bibliographies, anthologies and, dissertations making the task of a bibliographer arduous and challenging. Thus, given the breadth and scope of the subject, the following bibliography does not claim to be a comprehensive and exhaustive list but intends to catalogue major articles/books published after 1960s with a special reference to African American literary theory and cultural criticism. With large number of documents and archives available

online, this bibliography is supplemented by a webibliography and a list of referred black studies journals.

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CLA Journal
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First World: An International Journal of Black Thought
Journal of Black Psychology
Journal of Black Studies
Journal of Negro Education
Journal of Negro History
MELUS
Obsidian: Black Literature in Review
Phylon: The Atlanta University Review of Race and Culture
Review of Black Political Economy
Studia Africana: An International Journal of Africana Studies
Western Journal of Black Studies

Webibliography

African American E-Magazine

<http://www.eurweb.com/index.cfm>

Black Film Center/Archive

<http://www.indiana.edu/~bfca/index.html>

African American Image Archive

<http://lcweb2.loc.gov/ammem/aap/aaphome.html>

Toni Morrison Society

<http://www.tonimorrisonssociety.org/>

How Race Was Lived in America: A Decade-By-Decade Selection of Articles

<http://www.nytimes.com/library/national/race/past-nyt-index.html>

Selection of articles from the *New York Times* ranging from the 1880's until early 2000.

U.S. Department of Justice – Civil Rights Division

<http://www.usdoj.gov/crt/crt-home.html>

Chief civil rights enforcement agency for the federal government. Includes key speeches, special issues publications, texts of cases, and a newsletter.

www.pbs.org/wnet/jimcrow

Background and teacher resources for Jim Crow.

Black History Month

http://www.gale.com/free_resources/bhm/index.htm

Black History Month

<http://www.infoplease.com/spot/bhm1.html> Infoplease.com

Black History Month

http://www.nytimes.com/learning/issues_in_depth/20030116.html New York Times

Celebrate Black History Month

http://www.educationworld.com/a_special/black_history.shtml Education World

Celebrating Black History Month

<http://www.time.com/time/reports/blackhistory/> Time.com

African-American Women

<http://scriptorium.lib.duke.edu/collections/african-american-women.html>
Duke University's on-line archival collections.

Detailed Research Guide to African American Studies

http://www.libraries.rutgers.edu/rul/rr_gateway/research_guides/history/afr ores.shtml

African American Women Authors: from the NY Public Library

http://digital.nypl.org/schomburg/writers_aa19/toc.html

Harlem Renaissance Resources: PAL: Perspective in American Literature - A research and reference Guide-Ongoing project

<http://www.csustan.edu/english/reuben/pal/chap9/chap9.html>

African American Women: from the Duke University Special Collection

<http://scriptorium.lib.duke.edu/collections/african-american-women.html>

African American Literature analysis, from USINFO

<http://usinfo.state.gov/journals/itsv/0200/ijse/stepto.htm>

African American Literature Bibliography, from USINFO

http://usinfo.state.gov/scv/history_geography_and_population/population_and_diversity/african_americans/african_americans_biblio.html

African American Writers: Online E-texts

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Editors: William R. Scott and William G. Shade, Lehigh University March 2005

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