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Mosheh Adamu

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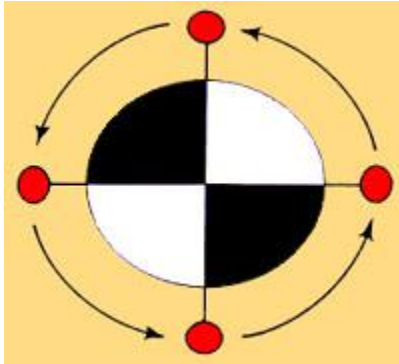
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A HipHop Paradigm Shift: Redefining African America via Anthropology

By Mosheh Adamu*



Although the defining facets and contours of African American culture are still being developed through historical archaeological and ethnographic research, now is the time for a shift in key concepts. In order for the peoples of the world to understand what has become of Africans in America, it is essential to connect them with the past. Africanisms have been retained, transformed, and recreated through the unrelenting energy of cosmologies.

African worldviews at the core of Africanity have become manifest in HipHop, the major self-identifying factor of African Americans since the 1970s. My goal in this project is to define HipHop culture and Rap language through archaeology and ethnography. This effort provides a prelude to the study of Emceen' (language), Breakin' (performance art and dance), Deejayin' (technology and music), and Graffiti (visual arts and writing) in an archaeological and ethnographic framework.

My discussion of this HipHop paradigm shift is presented in a twenty-minute audiovisual recording, created for the 2010 Society for Historical Archaeology Conference, and available online at: <http://www.vimeo.com/8622517>. This presentation was part of a symposium entitled "African Historical Archaeology: Diasporic Conversations," organized by Sarah Croucher and Zoe Crossland.

*** Mosheh Adamu, Yates Community Archaeology Project, Houston, Texas, mosheh@bfapicons.net.**