

MARVIN D. STERLING, PH.D.
Curriculum Vitae

OFFICE ADDRESS

Department of Anthropology
Student Building 130
Indiana University
Bloomington, IN 47405-7100
812-855-3858 (phone), 812-855-4358 (fax)
mdsterli@indiana.edu

ACADEMIC POSITIONS:

- Associate Professor, Department of Anthropology, Indiana University, Bloomington (2011-Present)
- Assistant Professor, Department of Anthropology, Indiana University, Bloomington (2004-2011)
- Affiliated Faculty in East Asian Languages and Cultures, Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies, and American Studies Program at Indiana University, Bloomington (2004-Present)
- Visiting Assistant Professor, Institute for Research in Humanities, Kyoto University (Fall 2008)
- Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Anthropology, Indiana University, Bloomington (2003-2004)

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Regional: Japan, Jamaica, African Diaspora
Theoretical: Race and transnationalism, identity, performance, human rights, Afro-Asia
Methodological: Multi-sited ethnography

EDUCATION

Ph.D. (2002): Cultural Anthropology, University of California, Los Angeles

Advisors: Mariko Tamanoi and Marcyliena Morgan (Co-Chairs), Kyeyoung Park and Miriam Silverberg. Field Advisor: John Russell, Gifu University.

Dissertation: “In the Shadow of ‘the Universal Other’: Performative Identifications with Jamaican Culture in Japan”

M.A. (1996): Cultural Anthropology, University of California, Los Angeles

Advisors: Peter Hammond (Chair), Marcyliena Morgan, Kyeyoung Park and Douglas Hollan

Thesis: “Double Consciousness and the Black Male Self: An Ethnography of African American Sailors at Yokosuka Naval Base, Japan.”

B.S. (1991): Communication Studies (Print Journalism Focus), New York University.

PUBLICATIONS

Published:

Books:

Sterling, Marvin D. 2010. Babylon East: Performing Dancehall, Roots Reggae and Rastafari in Japan. Durham, NC: Duke University Press.

Refereed Journal Articles:

Sterling, Marvin D. 2011. "Searching for Self in the Global South: Japanese Literary Representations of Afro-Jamaican Blackness." Journal of Japanese Studies 31(1):53-71.

Sterling, Marvin D. 2006. "The Symbolic Constitution of Japanese Dancehall." Social and Economic Studies: Special Issue on Popular Culture 55 (1&2): 1-24.

Refereed Book Chapters:

Sterling, Marvin D. 2011. "Toward an Analysis of Global Blackness: Race, Representation, and Jamaican Popular Culture in Japan." In Racial Representation in Asia. Yasuko Takezawa, Editor. Kyoto, Melbourne: Kyoto University Press and Trans Pacific Press.

Encyclopedia Entries:

Sterling, Marvin D. 2005. "Mento." In Encyclopedia of African American Folklore. Anand Prahlad, Editor. New Hampshire: Greenwood Publishing Company.

Sterling, Marvin D. 2005. "Reggae." In Encyclopedia of African American Folklore. Anand Prahlad, Editor. New Hampshire: Greenwood Publishing Company.

Submitted:

Refereed Book Chapters:

Sterling, Marvin D. "Raggamuffin Inna Tokyo City: Representing Gender, Class and Race in Japanese Dancehall Culture." In Global Reggae. Kingston: University of the West Indies Press. Forthcoming Fall 2012.

In Preparation:

Refereed Journal Articles:

Sterling, Marvin D. "'Japanizing' Reggae: The Evolution of Japan's Dancehall Scene." Target Journal: Ethnomusicology. Target Date: February 2012.

Sterling, Marvin D. "Interrogating the Afro-Asian: The Japanese Community in Jamaica." Target Journal: American Ethnologist. Target Date: April 2012.

Sterling, Marvin D. "Rude Boys and Divas Hide in the Light: Media, Gender, and the Commodification of Japanese Dancehall Culture". Target Journal: positions: east asian cultures critique. Target Date: July 2012.

Sterling, Marvin D. "Performative Intersections of Gender and Race: Dancehall Reggae in Japan." Target Journal: Identities: Global Studies in Culture and Power. Target Date: August 2012.

GRANTS, AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

IU College of Arts and Humanities Institute Travel Grant, Summer 2011
IU Office of the Vice President for International Affairs Overseas Research Grant, Summer 2011
IU College of Arts and Sciences Trustees' Teaching Award, 2010
IU Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies Faculty Travel Award, 2009
Kyoto University Institute for Research in Humanities Visiting Professorship, Fall 2008
IU East Asian Studies Center Publication Subvention Grant, 2005
IU Faculty Fellow, CAHI/AAADS "Variations on Blackness" Workshop, 2005
IU Summer Faculty Fellowship, 2004
UCLA Sasakawa Fellowship, 1998 (for dissertation fieldwork)
UCLA Hiroshi Wagatsuma Fellowship, 1998, 1996 (for dissertation fieldwork)
UCLA Institute of American Cultures Research Grant, 1997

CONFERENCES

"Japanizing Reggae: Music, Nation, and the Cultural Politics of Tradition in the Development of Japan's Reggae Scene." American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, Montreal, Canada, November 16-20, 2011.

"Race, Reggae and "The Search for Self": Japan's Literary Excursions into the Jamaican." International Reggae Conference, University of the West Indies, February 17-21, 2010.

Interrogating the Afro-Asian: Japanese Reggae Artists in Jamaica. American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, December 2-6, 2009.

The Politics of Global Subculture: Dancehall Reggae in Japan. American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, Washington, DC, November 28-December 2, 2007

Reggae Music in Japan: Jamaican Perspectives. IU Bloomington Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies Colloquium Series, November 16, 2006.

Race as Spiritual Metaphor: Rastafarian Discourse in Japan. Association of Asian Studies Annual Meeting, April 6-9, 2006.

Blood Measures: Past Verities and Present Uncertainties of Racial Definition in North America. (Panel Discussant). American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, December 3, 2005.

Semiotics and New Musical Diaspora: Dancehall Culture in Jamaica and Japan. IU Bloomington East Asian Studies Center Colloquium Series, March 26, 2004.

Dancehall as Transnational Semiotics in Jamaica and Japan. Caribbean Soundscapes Conference, Tulane University, New Orleans, March 12-13, 2004.

Performing Gender, Race and Ethnicity in the Afro-Asian Transnational: Dancehall Reggae Culture in Japan. Paper presented at the Blacks and Asians in the Making of the Modern World Conference, Boston University, April 11-13, 2003.

Negotiating Black Identity in Contemporary Japan. Paper presented at Srinakharinwirot University & Salisbury State University Joint International Conference on American Studies, and the Literature of America, Great Britain and the Pacific Rim. Bangkok, Thailand, January 8-10, 1998.

Popular Cultural Africanities in Contemporary Japan. Society for Cross-Cultural Research Conference, San Antonio, February 21, 1997.

INVITED TALKS

Indiana University (Selected)

Teachable Moments: The Language of Race. (Discussion Leader.) Indiana University Commission on Multicultural Understanding, 2005.

"A We Run Tings!": Performing Gender and Nationhood in the Japanese Dancehall. Indiana University Bloomington Department of Anthropology Brownbag Talk, March 8, 2004.

National and International

Dancehall as Afro-Asian Rebellion? On Blackness and the Possibilities of Resistance in Japanese Reggae Culture. Rebel Music Conference, Northern Illinois University, December 1, 2010

Toward an Anthropology of the Afro-Asian: Reggae and Rasta in Japan. New Frontiers in Black Studies Speaker Series, Northwestern University. April 30, 2010.

"Jibun Sagashi" in the Global South: Afro-Jamaica and the Japanese Literary "Search for Self". (Keynote Speaker.) Florida International University, Southern Japan Seminar, March 14, 2009.

Creating Counter Representations (Section III). (Chair.) Transforming Images of Race Symposium. Kyoto University, Kyoto, Japan, December 5-6, 2008.

Searching for Self in the Global South: Representations of Jamaicans in Japanese Travel Writing. Kyoto University Institute for Research in Humanities, November 15, 2008.

[Jamaika kara mita nihon no regee bunka: Afroajia minzokushi ni mukete.] Jamaican Perspectives on Japanese Reggae Culture: Towards an Ethnography of the Afro-Asian. Kyoto University Institute for Research in Humanities, November 7, 2008.

[Nihon no regee sabukaruchaa ni okeru gendaa, kaikyū, jinshu no hyōshō]. Representing Gender, Race and Class in Japanese Reggae Subculture. Kyoto University Institute for Research in Humanities, October 8, 2008.

Reggae Music in Japan. (Keynote Speaker). Global Reggae Conference, University of the West Indies, February 18-24, 2008.

Japan Anthropology Dissertation Workshop. (Discussant.) University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign, October 27, 2006.

Babylon East: An Ethnography of Dancehall, Roots Reggae and Rastafari in Japan. Duke University Press' "The Word on Music" Symposium. Duke University, September 8-10, 2005.

Hybridities Old and New: African Diasporic Music as Performative Cartography. Cornell University Caribbean Student Association, April 23, 2004.

On the Possibilities of Multi-Sited Ethnography: 'Rastafari' in Japan. IUPUI Anthropology Club Brown Lecture Series, April 8, 2004.

Jamaican Culture in Japan. Paper presented at Jamaica in the Pacific Conference. Reggae Studies Unit, University of the West Indies. Kingston, Jamaica, December 13, 2002.

COURSES DEVELOPED (IU BLOOMINGTON)

Lectures:

- “The Anthropology of Contemporary Japan”
- “Chanting Down Babylon’: Afro-Caribbean Popular Culture as Protest”
- “Global Black Music and Identity”
- “Social and Cultural Anthropology”

Seminars:

- “The Anthropology of Human Rights”
- “The Anthropology of Race”
- “Body, Power and Performance”
- “Fiction Writing and Cultural Anthropology”

DISSERTATIONS AND THESES COMMITTEE MEMBER

Ph.D. Students, Graduated

Lucinda Carspecken
William Eastwood
Sue-Je Gage
Hisato Kawata
Candice Lowe
Lauren Miller
Alfredo Minetti
Carol Sullivan

Ph.D. Students, ABD

Elizabeth Burbach
Elise de Camp
Gillian Richards Greaves
Shingo Hamada
Kellie Jean Hogue (Co-Chair)
Lewis Jones
Ben Michaels (Chair)
Fileve Palmer
Rodrigo Penna-Firme Pedrosa
Rebecca Riall
Audrey Ricke (Chair)

PhD Students, non-ABD:

Lewis Bradford
Chi-Hoon Kim

Extra-Departmental

Dustin Cantrell (Ph.D., Education)
Rhonda Dass (Ph.D., F&E; graduated)
Anthony Guest Scott (Ph.D., F&E)
Bryan Young (Ph.D., C&C)
Adam Zolkover (Ph.D., F&E)
Jonathan Warner (Ph.D., History)

M.A. Students

Abigail Alyn (graduated)
Rachel Eyermann (Chair; graduated)
Bradley Good (Chair)
Jessica Zerrer (graduated)

Undergraduate

Project advisor, Jonah Williams
(Poynter Center Prize in Practical
Ethics for Undergraduates)
Senior Thesis Advisor, Brett Norris
(Anthropology; graduated)
Advisor, Abigail Mack (IMP;
graduated)
Member, Honors Thesis Committee,
Antonia Dominguez (graduated)

FIELDWORK EXPERIENCE

June – August 2011: Kingston and Montego Bay (Jamaica). Fieldwork for ethnographic project on the Japanese community in Jamaica.

June – August 2006, May – August 2004: Tokyo, Nagano, Yokohama, Osaka (Japan); Kingston, Montego Bay (Jamaica). Supplementary fieldwork for completion of book manuscript on Jamaican popular culture in Japan

May - June 2001: *Yoshino, Oshika (Japan)*. Supplementary dissertation fieldwork on commune life among Japanese counterculturalists and Rastafarians

Summer 1999: *Kingston, Portmore (Jamaica)*. Ethnographic research on dancehall and Rastafarian subcultures in Jamaica (for comparison with similar subcultures in Japan)

August 1998 – July 2000: *Tokyo, Yokohama, Osaka, Okinawa, Yoshino (Japan)*. Dissertation research on Jamaican subcultures in Japan

Summer and Fall 1995: *Yokosuka, Yokohama, Tokyo (Japan)*: Ethnographic research on African American military personnel in Japan

NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Book Reviews:

Sterling, Marvin D. 2011. Book Review, “Man Vibes: Masculinities in the Jamaican Dancehall” by Donna Hope. Dancecult: Journal of Electronic Dance Music Culture 3(1): 129-134.

Sterling, Marvin D. 2004. Book Review, “Wake the Town and Tell the People: Dancehall Culture in Jamaica” by Norman Stolzoff. The Canadian Journal of Latin American and Caribbean Studies 30(59):200.

Journal Manuscript Reviews:

Identities: Global Studies in Culture and Power

Book Manuscript Proposal Reviews:

Cambridge University Press

Fellowship Application Reviews:

School of Advanced Research

UNIVERSITY SERVICE

Organizer, Ethnographers Forum Series (2006-2007)

Member, Black Faculty and Staff Caucus (2006-2007)

Member, Working Group on the IU Bloomington Qualitative Research Center (2005)

Faculty Sponsor, Caribbean Student Association (2005-Present)

Member, Working Group, “Shifting Contexts: Multidisciplinary Workshop on Performance” (2005)

Member, EASC FLAS Selection Committee (2005)

AFFILIATIONS

American Anthropological Association

Association of Black Anthropologists

American Ethnological Society

Society for Cultural Anthropology

Association of Asian Studies

LANGUAGES

Jamaican Creole (Fluent)

Japanese (Advanced)

Spanish (Intermediate)