

Call for contributors – Special Issue of the Journal of Hip Hop Studies

“I Gotta Testify”: Conversations on Kanye West, Religion & Hip-Hop

Edited by Joshua K. Wright, Ph.D., VaNatta Ford, Ph.D., and Adria Goldman, Ph.D.

Is Kanye West taking his listeners to heaven or hell? Is he a modern day bluesman promoting the devil's music or a secular alternative to traditional as well as contemporary religious music? These are important questions to consider when evaluating the spiritual characteristics of hip-hop's most polarizing artist. We are seeking contributors to our forthcoming anthology: *“I Gotta Testify:” Conversations on Kanye West, Religion & Hip-Hop*. This anthology will be published as the fall 2017 special issue of *The Journal of Hip Hop Studies*. This is the most prestigious academic journal on hip-hop in the nation. Multiple books have been published on hip-hop icon Kanye West including Mark Beaumont's *Kanye West: God and Monster* (2015) and Justin Bailey's *The Cultural Impact of Kanye West* (2014). But there has yet to be an entire academic study devoted to the emcee's influence on the discussion of religion and spirituality in hip-hop. This anthology will be composed of multidisciplinary essays and short meditations that explore this topic. The goal of this project is to add a new perspective to the scholarly discourse on hip-hop and religion within classrooms, religious institutions, and popular culture by focusing on one of hip-hop's most influential artist in the past decade. Confirmed contributors include professors and doctoral students from around the country. If you are interested in working with us please send a brief bio and abstract (with title) of your paper by **August 31, 2016** to jkwright@yahoo.com. Full papers are due by **December 1, 2016** and must conform to the Chicago Manual of Style format.

Sincerely,

Joshua K. Wright, Ph.D. (co-editor)
Assistant Professor of History
University of Maryland Eastern Shore
jkwright@yahoo.com

VaNatta Ford, Ph.D. (co-editor)
Assistant Professor of Africana Studies
Williams College
vsf1@williams.edu

Adria Goldman, Ph.D. (co-editor)
Assistant Professor of Communication
Gordon State College
agoldman@gordonstate.edu