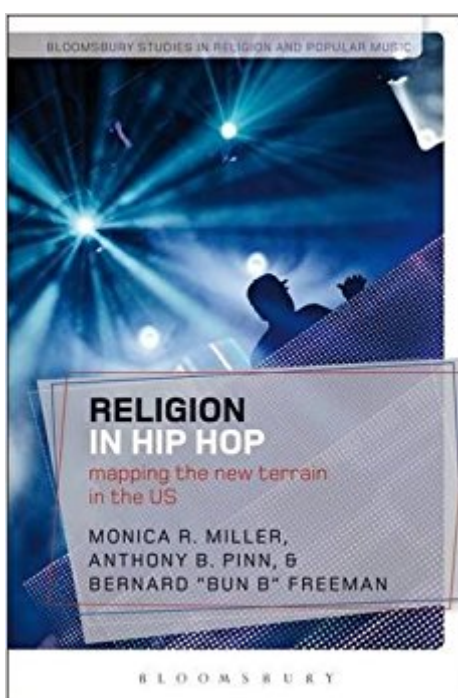


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# Religion In Hip Hop: Mapping The New Terrain In The US (Bloomsbury Studies In Religion And Popular Music)



## Synopsis

Now a global and transnational phenomenon, hip hop culture continues to affect and be affected by the institutional, cultural, religious, social, economic and political landscape of American society and beyond. Over the past two decades, numerous disciplines have taken up hip hop culture for its intellectual weight and contributions to the cultural life and self-understanding of the United States. More recently, the academic study of religion has given hip hop culture closer and more critical attention, yet this conversation is often limited to discussions of hip hop and traditional understandings of religion and a methodological hyper-focus on lyrical and textual analyses. *Religion in Hip Hop: Mapping the Terrain* provides an important step in advancing and mapping this new field of Religion and Hip Hop Studies. The volume features 14 original contributions representative of this new terrain within three sections representing major thematic issues over the past two decades. The Preface is written by one of the most prolific and founding scholars of this area of study, Michael Eric Dyson, and the inclusion of and collaboration with Bernard 'Bun B' Freeman fosters a perspective internal to Hip Hop and encourages conversation between artists and academics.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

“Reading these essays reminded me of the pleasure of reading the provocative labels in wine stores: you feel language stretching beyond itself to coax and caress, to capture what it can of

the elusive substance that you want more than anything to taste. How wonderful that academic discourse can seduce us into the complexity of music and the broad vision of hip hop, a wine that rewards bold thinking.

—David Morgan, Professor and Chair, Department of Religious Studies, Duke University, USA

“The field of Hip Hop Studies is ever growing, especially in the area of religion. What Miller and Pinn do in *Religion and Hip Hop: Mapping the New Terrain in the US*, is to offer a valuable contribution to both scholars and practitioners in the field. This volume provides us with a much needed understanding of how religion functions within hip hop. A must for any Hip Hop and Religion course!

—Andre E. Johnson, Dr. James L. Netters Associate Professor of Rhetoric & Religion and African American Studies, Memphis Theological Seminar, USA

“Miller and Pinn’s collaborative contribution points the burgeoning study of hip hop and religion toward a bold and new trajectory of methodological innovation, theoretical sophistication, and thematic clarity. The groundbreaking implications of this work will take many years to unfold.

—Shayne Lee, Associate Professor of Sociology at the University of Houston, USA, and author of *Tyler Perry’s America: Inside His Films* (2015)

“Hip Hop is being dissected daily. With *Religion in Hip Hop: Mapping the New Terrain in the US* I am proud to see it being intelligently examined by one who has risen from its underground.

—David Banner, rapper and record producer, USA

“Hip Hop has always been and will always be a conversation with the community it came from, and spirituality is at the center of this conversation. From rappers who call themselves God due to the Five Percenters’ influence to those who wear Jesus chains, the eternal questions that religion and spirituality have tried to answer have always been asked by the Hip Hop community. *Religion in Hip Hop: Mapping The New Terrain in the US* highlights and examines the language of religion in hip hop that can easily be missed.

—Talib Kweli Greene, rapper and record producer, USA

“In spite of its ubiquity, Hip Hop remains a misunderstood dimension of contemporary culture. No more so than in relation to religion, where its connections are rich, layered, and compelling. *Religion in Hip Hop: Mapping the New Terrain in the US* addresses this situation through careful research, smart and compelling conceptual work, and thorough historical and cultural analysis. Scholarly and lay discourses about religion and media will be richer for its efforts.

—Stewart Hoover, Professor of Media Studies in the School of Journalism and Mass Communication and Director of the Center for Media, Religion, and Culture, University of Colorado at Boulder, USA

“Scholars of religion, historians, cultural critics, social scientists, and scholars of American religion should welcome this much-needed text for both its admirable execution and its groundbreaking contributions to the study of hip-hop and religion. Miller, Pinn, and

Freeman have set the proverbial table for others to explore the rich rhetorical worlds of hip-hop, rap music, and religion. — Benjamin Rolsky, H-Net

Monica R. Miller is Assistant Professor of Religion & Africana Studies, Director of Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies at Lehigh University, USA. Anthony B. Pinn is Agnes Cullen Arnold Professor of Humanities, Professor of Religious Studies, and Director of the Center for Engaged Research and Collaborative Learning (CERCL) at Rice University, USA. Bernard "Bun B" Freeman is an American rapper, songwriter and CERCL Distinguished Visiting Lecturer at Rice University, USA.

Incredible contribution from two of the finest scholars of religion and hip hop. Essentially, Miller and Pinn have created the subfield, and their vision shows in this collection. All the pieces are strong, but of specific note are the essays by Michael Eric Dyson, John L. Jackson, Joseph Winters, James B. Peterson, and the late Greg Dimitriadis. If you're at all interested in the "spiritual" dimensions of hip hop, or why hip hop matters so much (and to so many), this book will not disappoint.

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