

SNMA Library
June 3, 2021

Black Queer Cultural Criticism

The field of Black queer cultural criticism is tremendously rich and diverse. The SNMA has an important collection of over 100 books in this area, addressing topics such as intersectionality, racism, homophobia, art, politics, family, and gender. With an emphasis on the 1980s to the present, these works take the form of essay collections, academic monographs, personal writings, anthologies, and oral histories.

Hilton Als, *White Girls* (San Francisco: McSweeney's, 2013).

A book of literary and cultural criticism focusing on race, gender, and history.

James Baldwin, *Notes of a Native Son* (Boston: Beacon Press, 1984 [1955]).

A collection of ten essays tackling issues of race in America and Europe.

Patricia Bell-Scott and Juanita Johnson-Bailey, eds., *Flat-Footed Truths: Telling Black Women's Lives* (New York: Henry Holt, 1998).

A book of essays, interviews, poems, and photographs about identity and art.

Keith Boykin, ed., *For Colored Boys Who Have Considered Suicide When the Rainbow is Still Not Enough: Coming of Age, Coming Out, and Coming Home* (New York: Magnus Books, 2012).

A book of essays about sexual abuse, suicide, HIV/AIDS, racism, and homophobia in the African American and Latino communities.

Eric Brandt, ed., *Dangerous Liaisons: Blacks & Gays and the Struggle for Equality* (New York: New Press, 1999).

Essays analyzing the intersections of race and sexuality in America.

Elly Bulkin, Minnie Bruce Pratt, and Barbara Smith, *Yours in Struggle: Three Feminist Perspectives on Anti-Semitism and Racism* (Ithaca: Firebrand Books, 1988 [1984]).

A look at the intersections and divergences between the struggles against anti-Semitism and racism.

Cathy J. Cohen, *The Boundaries of Blackness: AIDS and the Breakdown of Black Politics* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1999).

An academic study about the social, political, and cultural impact of AIDS on African American communities.

Delroy Constantine-Simms, ed., *The Greatest Taboo: Homosexuality in Black Communities* (Los Angeles: Alyson Books, 2001).

Essays about the transformation and continued repression of Black lesbians and gay men.

- Thomas Glave, *Words to Our Now: Imagination and Dissent* (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2005).
A personal and political confrontation with prejudice, hatred, and violence.
- Jewelle Gomez, *Forty-Three Septembers: Essays* (Ithaca: Firebrand Books, 1993).
A collection of autobiographical essays about identity, family, growing up, and aging.
- Horace L. Griffin, *Their Own Receive Them Not: African American Lesbians and Gays in Black Churches* (Cleveland: Pilgrim Press, 2006).
New insights into scripture and homosexuality through pastoral theology and Black liberation theology.
- Essex Hemphill, ed., *Brother to Brother: New Writings by Black Gay Men* (Boston: Alyson Publications, 1991).
An essential collection of poetry and prose about the Black gay experience.
- B. Michael Hunter, ed., *Sojourner: Black Gay Voices in the Age of AIDS* (New York: Other Countries Press, 1993).
An anthology of poetry, fiction, and nonfiction related to HIV/AIDS.
- E. Patrick Johnson, *Sweet Tea: Black Gay Men of the South* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2008).
An oral history of Black gay men who were born, raised in, and continued to live in the South.
- George M. Johnson, *All Boys Aren't Blue: A Memoir-Manifesto* (New York: Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 2020).
A collection of personal essays about gender identity, toxic masculinity, brotherhood, family, and more.
- J. L. King, *On the Down Low: A Journey into the Lives of "Straight" Black Men Who Sleep with Men* (New York: Broadway Books, 2004).
An exploration of the sexual lives of "down low" Black men.
- Audre Lorde, *I Am Your Sister: Black Women Organizing Across Sexualities* (New York: Kitchen Table: Women of Color Press, 1985).
A book challenging homophobia as a divisive force amongst Black women.
- Tara Roberts, ed., *Am I the Last Virgin?: Ten African American Reflections on Sex and Love* (New York: Simon & Schuster, 1997).
A collection of coming-of-age essays geared toward Black youth.
- Barbara Smith, *The Truth That Never Hurts: Writings on Race, Gender, and Freedom* (New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press, 1998).
A collection of literary criticism and political thought.

Michael J. Smith, ed., *Black Men/White Men: A Gay Anthology* (San Francisco: Gay Sunshine Press, 1983).

An early collection of writings about Black and interracial gay life.

Kathryn Bond Stockton, *Beautiful Bottom, Beautiful Shame: Where "Black" Meets "Queer"* (Durham: Duke University Press, 2006).

A theorization of how shame has been embraced by Black and queer people.

Maurice O. Wallace, *Constructing the Black Masculine: Identity and Ideality in African American Men's Literature and Culture, 1775-1995* (Durham: Duke University Press, 2002).

An academic study of the relationship between Blackness and maleness in the United States.