



The Queer Limit of Black Memory: Black Lesbian Literature and Irresolution (Black Performance and Cultural Criticism)

By Matt Richardson

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The Queer Limit of Black Memory: Black Lesbian Literature and Irresolution identifies a new archive of Black women's literature that has heretofore been on the margins of literary scholarship and African diaspora cultural criticism. It argues that Black lesbian texts celebrate both the strategies of resistance used by queer Black subjects and the spaces for grieving the loss of queer Black subjects that dominant histories of the African diasporas often forget. Matt Richardson has gathered an understudied archive of texts by LaShonda Barnett, S. Diane Adamz-Bogus, Dionne Brand, Sharon Bridgforth, Laurinda D. Brown, Jewelle Gomez, Jackie Kay, and Cherry Muhanji in order to relocate the queerness of Black diasporic vernacular traditions, including drag or gender performance, blues, jazz, and West African spiritual and religious practices.

Richardson argues that the vernacular includes queer epistemologies, or methods for accessing and exploring the realities of Black queer experience that other alternative archives and spaces of commemoration do not explore. *The Queer Limit of Black Memory* brings together several theorists whose work is vital within Black studies—Fred Moten, Saidiya Hartman, Hortense Spillers, Frantz Fanon, and Orlando Patterson—in service of queer readings of Black subjectivity.

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Editorial Review

Review

“*The Queer Limit of Black Memory* is compelling interdisciplinary work which fills an existing void in many fields, and that void is scholarship on Black lesbian and transgendered subjects. Matt Richardson provides a wealth of knowledge and insights that many will be relying on for years to come.” —L. H. Stallings, associate professor of gender studies at Indiana University Bloomington

“Bringing together Black feminist thought with queer theory, Richardson engages questions of violence, dispossession, the archive, diaspora, and the body in this thoughtful and far-reaching book. Full of theoretical insights, politically astute, and sensitive to formal and historical questions, *The Queer Limit of Black Memory* makes a valuable contribution to the field of Black queer studies.” —Heather Love, University of Pennsylvania

About the Author

Matt Richardson is assistant professor of English and African and African Diaspora Studies and affiliate faculty with the Center for Women’s and Gender Studies and the Warfield Center for African and African American Studies at the University of Texas at Austin.

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