

Chet Mitchell Memorial Lecture

Friday, January 15, 2021

4:00 - 5:00 pm EST

Via Zoom

[RSVP Required](#)

Curation, Music and Law

Zora Neale Hurston, John Lomax and Visions of Black Culture



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African American music is deeply woven in the fabric of twenty-first century global culture. The rise of African American music reflects profound shifts in musical tastes in the United States and elsewhere since the late nineteenth century. As a hybrid music form that emerged at the intersection of varied cultural crossroads, African American music reflects various types of borrowing. Cultural hierarchies can impact perceptions of modes of acceptable borrowing.

This lecture draws on conceptions about black music from varied disciplines, including law, music and folklore, focusing on how curation by varied actors at different points in time has contributed to societal conceptions and individual understandings of what African American culture should be and the development. This lecture will also discuss how the body of works that have come to be categorized as black music constitutes a malleable category that has changed with time, place, and circumstance.

Bio: Olufunmilayo (“Funmi”) Arewa works in the areas of music, technology, copyright, film, business law, and Africana studies. She is the author of *Disrupting Africa: Technology, Law and Development* (forthcoming 2021). Her lecture relates to her current book project *Creating Global Markets for Black Music: Curation, Music and Law*. In addition to writing about music, Professor Arewa studies classical voice.



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