

“Out of the House of Disgust: James Baldwin and the Politics of Anti- Black Sexuality within the Black Church”

Dr. Terrance Dean



Candidate Talk

Friday, January 28th, 2022

11:00am - 12:20pm

Zoom Link: <https://ucr.zoom.us/j/6502699408>

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James Baldwin understood the conflict between his faith and racial, sexual and gender identities. He grappled with these terms throughout his life, yet, introspectively he wrote discursively on racial and social justice during the Civil Rights movement. Baldwin, also, criticized Christianity and the role of the Black Church on matters of race, gender, and inclusivity. This talk interrogates the ways in which many Black preachers weaponize Black queer persons' sexuality through religious rhetoric of disgust in an effort to displace them politically and socially from their churches, communities and families. In essence, the Black Church may exhibit pro-blackness on issues of racial and social justice, however, its theology maintains anti-black sexuality. By examining Baldwin's writings of freedom and love we find discoveries of liberation which rescues Black queer persons from the house of Disgust and into beloved community.

Terrance Dean, Ph.D. is an Assistant Professor in Black Studies at Denison University. He received his Ph.D. in Religion and African American Diaspora Studies from Vanderbilt University. He is a John Seigenthaler Journalism Fellow from Vanderbilt University, and serves as a Tutu Desk Brand Ambassador for the Archbishop Desmond Tutu Foundation. Dean is the founder, and Director, of the William Payne Innovation Lab for Racial, Social, Political and Communal Sustainability at Denison University. The Lab serves as the research arm of the academic program in the Center for Black Studies. Dean's research examines gender, sex, sexuality, Black religion and homiletics, rhetoric and communication, African Diaspora, Black cultural studies, James Baldwin, and Afrofuturism.