

MARVIN D. STERLING, PH.D.
Curriculum Vitae

ADDRESS

Department of Anthropology
Student Building 130
Indiana University
701 E. Kirkwood Avenue
Bloomington, IN 47405-7100
812-855-3858 (phone), 812-855-4358 (fax)
mdsterli@indiana.edu

FACULTY POSITIONS

- Associate Professor, Department of Anthropology, Indiana University, Bloomington (2011-Present)
- Assistant Professor, Department of Anthropology, Indiana University, Bloomington (2004-2011)
- Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Anthropology, Indiana University, Bloomington (2003-2004)
- Affiliated Faculty in the Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures; Department of Folklore and Ethnomusicology; Department of African American & African Diaspora Studies; the American Studies Program; Cultural Studies Program; Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies; the Center for Research on Race and Ethnicity in Society
- Visiting Assistant Professor, Institute for Research in Humanities, Kyoto University (Fall 2008)

ACADEMIC ADMINISTRATIVE POSITIONS

Associate Director, Center for Research on Race and Ethnicity in Society (CRRES), Indiana University, Bloomington (2014-2016)

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Regional: Asia (Japan), Caribbean (Jamaica), African diaspora
Theoretical: race, blackness, mixed-race identities and human rights; Afro-Asia; globalization; performance theory; African diasporic music
Methodological: Multi-sited ethnography, critical discourse analysis

EDUCATION

PhD (2002): Anthropology, University of California, Los Angeles
Dissertation: "In the Shadow of 'the Universal Other': Performative Identifications with Jamaican Culture in Japan"
Advisors: Mariko Tamanoi and Marcyliena Morgan (Co-Chairs), Kyeyoung Park and Miriam Silverberg. Field Advisor: John Russell, Gifu University
MA (1996): Anthropology, University of California, Los Angeles
Thesis: "Double Consciousness and the Black Male Self: An Ethnography of African-American Sailors at Yokosuka Naval Base, Japan"
Advisors: Peter Hammond (Chair), Marcyliena Morgan, Kyeyoung Park and Douglas Hollan
BS (1991): Communication Studies (Print Journalism focus), New York University

REFEREED PUBLICATIONS (SELECTED)

Book Manuscript (Single-Authored):
Sterling, Marvin D. 2010. *Babylon East: Performing Dancehall, Roots Reggae and Rastafari in Japan*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press.

Co-Edited Volume

- Bridges, Will, Nitasha Tamar Sharma and Marvin D. Sterling. 2022. "Who is The Asianist?" *The Politics of Representation in Asian Studies*. Association for Asian Studies, Asia Shorts Series. New York: Columbia University Press.

Book (In Preparation):

Sterling, Marvin D. *The Postcolonial Regime of Human Rights: Social Justice Activism in Jamaica*.

Journal Articles:

- Sterling, Marvin D. 2016. "Between National Subjectivity and Global Artistry: Ethnography, Afro-Asia, and Jamaican Music in Japan." *Popular Music and Society* 39(3).
- Sterling, Marvin D. 2011. "Searching for Self in the Global South: Japanese Literary Representations of Afro-Jamaican Blackness." *Journal of Japanese Studies* 31(1):53-71.
- Sterling, Marvin D. 2006. "The Symbolic Constitution of Japanese Dancehall." *Social and Economic Studies: Special Issue on Popular Culture* 55 (1&2): 1-24.

Edited Volume Book Chapters:

- Sterling, Marvin D. 2022. "Gendering 'Smadditization': Labour and Violence in the (De)Colonisation of Afro-Jamaican Consciousness". In *Gendered Dimensions of Violence Prevention*. Ramona Biholar and Dacia Leslie, editors. London: Routledge.
- Sterling, Marvin D. 2015. "Race, Ethnicity and Affective Community in Japanese Rastafari." In "Traveling Texts and the Work of Afro-Japanese Cultural Production: Two Haiku and a Microphone." Nina Cornyetz and William Bridges IV, editors. Lanham, MD: Lexington Books.
- Sterling, Marvin D. 2012. "Raggamuffin Inna Tokyo City: Representing Gender, Class and Race in Japanese Dancehall Culture." In *Global Reggae*. Carolyn Cooper, Editor. Kingston: University of the West Indies Press.
- Sterling, Marvin D. 2011. "Toward an Analysis of Global Blackness: Race, Representation, and Jamaican Popular Culture in Japan." In *Racial Representation in Asia*. Yasuko Takezawa, Editor. Kyoto, Melbourne: Kyoto University Press and Trans Pacific Press.

Book Reviews:

- Sterling, Marvin D. 2022. "Roots in Reverse: Senegalese Afro-Cuban Music and Tropical Cosmopolitanism" by Richard M. Shain. *Journal of Folklore Research Reviews*. <https://scholarworks.iu.edu/journals/index.php/jfrr/article/view/35477/38642>
- Sterling, Marvin D. 2015. Book Review, "Pink Globalization: Hello Kitty's Trek across the Pacific" by Christine Yano, *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute* 21(1): 228-229.
- Sterling, Marvin D. 2011. Book Review, "Man Vibes: Masculinities in the Jamaican Dancehall" by Donna Hope. *Dancecult: Journal of Electronic Dance Music Culture* 3(1): 129-134.
- Sterling, Marvin D. 2004. Book Review, "Wake the Town and Tell the People: Dancehall Culture in Jamaica" by Norman Stolzoff. *The Canadian Journal of Latin American and Caribbean Studies* 30(59):200.

GRANTS, AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS (Selected)

- National Endowment for the Humanities, Fellowship for Advanced Social Science Research on Japan 2023. "Narrating the Afro-Japanese "Haafu" Experience: Race, Nation and Multipolar Globalization in Contemporary Japan." (\$60,000)
- Wenner Gren Foundation Post-Ph.D. Grant 2023: "Narrating the Afro-Japanese "Haafu" Experience: Race, Nation and Multipolar Globalization in Contemporary Japan." (\$9,831)
- The Japan Foundation Japanese Studies Research (Long-term) Fellowship 2019-2020: "Narrating the Afro-Japanese "Haafu" Experience: Race, Nation and Multipolar Globalization in Contemporary Japan." (\$60,000)
- Northeast Asia Council of the Association for Asian Studies Short-term Research Travel Grant 2020. (\$5,000)
- National Science Foundation, Cultural Anthropology, 2015 (BCS-1528969): "A Postcolonial Regime Analysis of Human Rights Discourse in Jamaica". (\$24,000)
- Mellon Innovating International Research, Teaching & Collaboration Short Term Faculty Fellowship, 2015
- IU College of Arts and Humanities Institute Travel Grant, Summer 2011
- IU Office of the VP for International Affairs Overseas Research Grant, Summer 2011
- IU College of Arts and Sciences Trustees' Teaching Award, 2010
- Kyoto University Institute for Research in Humanities Visiting Professorship, Fall 2008
- UCLA Sasakawa Fellowship, 1998 (for dissertation fieldwork)
- UCLA Hiroshi Wagatsuma Fellowship, 1998, 1996 (for dissertation fieldwork)

INVITED TALKS (Selected)

National and International

- *Neoliberal Intimacies, Global Blackness, and the “Kokujin-Hafu” Experience: Toward an Anthropology of Contemporary Afro-Asia.* Reischauer Institute of Japanese Studies, Harvard University, December 12, 2020.
- *Afro-Asia, Afro-Japanese, and “Multicultural Coexistence”:* *The Challenge of Diversity in Japanese Studies and in Contemporary Japan.* Race and Diversity in Japan and Japanese Studies Postgraduate Symposium. The Japanese Studies Centre, Monash University, Australia, October 19-20, 2018.
- *Liminal Theologies: The Rastafari Movement in Japan.* Texas Christian University, April 5, 2018.
- *Japanese Reggae: Translation, Performance, and Ethnicity in a Global Subculture.* Penn Humanities Forum on "Translation", University of Pennsylvania, November 30, 2016.
- *Ethnic Identities and Difference Among Japanese Reggae Musicians.* "Faces of Japanese Diversity: Demystifying Japan's Homogeneity" Symposium. Centre for Asian Pacific Initiatives, University of Victoria, Wednesday, April 29, 2015.
- *'Yellow Choice': Race, Dancehall Reggae and the Staging of Authenticity among Japanese Cultural Migrants in Kingston, Jamaica.* "Musics Abroad", Mahindra Humanities Center, Harvard University, October 8, 2014.
- *The End(s) of Diaspora: Race, Afro-Asia, and Jamaican Culture in Japan.* "Between African Americans and Japanese: Traveling Texts" Symposium. New York University, October 5, 2013.
- *Babylon East: Japanese Reggae as Instance of Contemporary Afro-Asia.* Hamilton College, March 7, 2013.
- *On the Cultural Politics of Tradition: 'Domesticating' Dancehall Reggae in Contemporary Japan.* Ethnoise! Ethnomusicology Workshop, University of Chicago, April 26, 2012.
- *Modernity, Globalization and the Cultural Politics of Tradition: 'Domesticating' Reggae Music in Recessionary Japan.* University of Iowa, April 18, 2012.
- *Reggae as Rebirth: Tracing Nationalist Discourse in Japanese Dancehall Music.* Bates College, March 8, 2012.
- *Sounding the Nation in Japanese Dancehall Music.* Kenyon College, April 2, 2012.
- *Dancehall as Afro-Asian Rebellion? On Blackness and the Possibilities of Resistance in Japanese Reggae Culture.* Rebel Music Conference, Northern Illinois University, December 1, 2010.
- *Toward an Anthropology of the Afro-Asian: Reggae and Rasta in Japan.* New Frontiers in Black Studies Speaker Series, Northwestern University, April 30, 2010.
- *"Jibun Sagashi" in the Global South: Afro-Jamaica and the Japanese Literary "Search for Self".* (Keynote Speaker.) Florida International University, Southern Japan Seminar, March 14, 2009.
- *Creating Counter Representations (Section III).* (Chair.) Transforming Images of Race Symposium. Kyoto University, Kyoto, Japan, December 5-6, 2008.
- *Searching for Self in the Global South: Representations of Jamaicans in Japanese Travel Writing.* Kyoto University Institute for Research in Humanities, November 15, 2008.
- *[Jamaika kara mita nihon no regee bunka: Afuroajia minzokushi ni mukete.] Jamaican Perspectives on Japanese Reggae Culture: Towards an Ethnography of the Afro-Asian.* Kyoto University Institute for Research in Humanities, November 7, 2008.
- *[Nihon no regee sabukaruchaa ni okeru gendaa, kaikyū, jinshu no hyōshō]. Representing Gender, Race and Class in Japanese Reggae Subculture.* Kyoto University Institute for Research in Humanities, October 8, 2008.
- *Reggae Music in Japan.* (Keynote Speaker). Global Reggae Conference, University of the West Indies, February 18-24, 2008.
- *Japan Anthropology Dissertation Workshop.* (Discussant.) University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign, October 27, 2006.
- *Babylon East: An Ethnography of Dancehall, Roots Reggae and Rastafari in Japan.* Duke University Press' "The Word on Music" Symposium. Duke University, September 8-10, 2005.
- *Hybridities Old and New: African Diasporic Music as Performative Cartography.* Cornell University Caribbean Student Association, April 23, 2004.
- *On the Possibilities of Multi-Sited Ethnography: 'Rastafari' in Japan.* IUPUI Anthropology Club Brown Lecture Series, April 8, 2004.
- *Jamaican Culture in Japan.* Paper presented at Jamaica in the Pacific Conference. Reggae Studies Unit, University of the West Indies. Kingston, Jamaica, December 13, 2002.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS (Selected)

- "Racing" Multicultural Coexistence: Japanese Media Coverage of Biracial Participants in International Beauty Contests and Athletic Competitions. Association of Asian Studies Annual Conference, Washington D.C., March 22-25, 2018.
- "Hard Paradise: Reimagining 'Jamaica' among Japanese Cultural Migrants." Association of Asian Studies Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA, March 18-25, 2014.
- Making Reggae Japanese: Authenticating Dancehall Music in Contemporary Japan. Association of Asian Studies Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA, March 19-24, 2013.
- On the Politics of Authenticity: Japanese Reggae and the Challenges of Jamaican National Branding. International Reggae Conference, University of the West Indies, Kingston, Jamaica, February 14-16, 2013.
- *Interrogating the 'Afro-Asian': Hybrid Ethnonationalities in Japanese Reggae Music*. American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA, November 14-18, 2012.
- *Japanizing Reggae: Music, Nation, and the Cultural Politics of Tradition in the Development of Japan's Reggae Scene*. American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, Montreal, Canada, November 16-20, 2011.
- *Race, Reggae and 'The Search for Self': Japan's Literary Excursions into the Jamaican*. International Reggae Conference, University of the West Indies, February 17-21, 2010.
- *Interrogating the Afro-Asian: Japanese Reggae Artists in Jamaica*. American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, December 2-6, 2009.
- *The Politics of Global Subculture: Dancehall Reggae in Japan*. American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, Washington, DC, November 28-December 2, 2007.
- *Reggae Music in Japan: Jamaican Perspectives*. IU Bloomington Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies Colloquium Series, November 16, 2006.
- *Race as Spiritual Metaphor: Rastafarian Discourse in Japan*. Association of Asian Studies Annual Meeting, April 6-9, 2006.
- *Blood Measures: Past Verities and Present Uncertainties of Racial Definition in North America*. (Panel Discussant). American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, December 3, 2005.
- *Semiotics and New Musical Diaspora: Dancehall Culture in Jamaica and Japan*. IU Bloomington East Asian Studies Center Colloquium Series, March 26, 2004.
- *Dancehall as Transnational Semiotics in Jamaica and Japan*. Caribbean Soundscapes Conference, Tulane University, New Orleans, March 12-13, 2004.
- *Performing Gender, Race and Ethnicity in the Afro-Asian Transnational: Dancehall Reggae Culture in Japan*. Paper presented at the Blacks and Asians in the Making of the Modern World Conference, Boston University, April 11-13, 2003.
- *Negotiating Black Identity in Contemporary Japan*. Paper presented at Srinakharinwirot University & Salisbury State University Joint International Conference on American Studies, and the Literature of America, Great Britain and the Pacific Rim. Bangkok, Thailand, January 8-10, 1998.

COURSES (IU Bloomington)

Lectures:

- "Black Internationalism"
- "The Anthropology of Contemporary Japan"
- "'Chanting Down Babylon': Protest and Popular Culture in the Afro-Caribbean"
- "Global Black Music and Identity"
- "Social and Cultural Anthropology"

Seminars:

- "The Anthropology of Human Rights"
- "The Anthropology of Race"
- "Body, Power and Performance"
- "Fiction Writing and Cultural Anthropology"

NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL PROFESSIONAL SERVICE (Selected)

Book Series Co-Editor (with Pedro Machado):

Afrasia: Contours, Crossings, Connections. University of Pittsburgh Press

Board Member (Councilor), Society for East Asian Anthropology (AAA; 2020-2022)

Chair, Francis L.K. Hsu Book Prize Committee 2021

Journal Manuscript Reviews:

- *Anthropological Quarterly*
- *Identities: Global Studies in Culture and Power*
- *Journal of Latin American and Caribbean Studies*
- *Japanese Studies*

Book Manuscript Proposal Reviews:

- Oxford University Press
- Cambridge University Press

Fellowship Application Reviews:

- School of Advanced Research

MEDIA APPEARANCES (Selected)

- “Reggae, Racial Difference, and Representations of Blackness in Japan: On the Record with Dr. Marvin Sterling (Indiana)” By Tristan Grunow, *Japan on the Record*, June 26, 2020. <https://jotr.transistor.fm/21>
- “Q&A: Marvin D. Sterling, The World’s Foremost Scholar Of Japanese Reggae.” By Joey Sweeny, *Philebrity.com*, December 2016. <https://www.philebrity.com/blog/2016/12/14/qa-marvin-d-sterling-the-worlds-foremost-scholar-of-japanese-reggae>
- “Marvin Sterling Delves into the Japanese Dancehall Reggae Scene.” By Marlon Bishop, *Afropop*, September 22, 2011. <https://afropop.org/articles/marvin-sterling-delves-into-the-japanese-dancehall-reggae-scene>
- “Japanese Reggae?” By Jonathan L. Fischer, *New York Times Magazine*, July 21, 2010. <https://tmagazine.blogs.nytimes.com/2010/07/21/japan-loves-reggae/>

IU SERVICE (Selected)

- Chair, Department of Anthropology Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee (2020-2022)
- Member, Department of Anthropology Executive Committee (2017-2019)
- Member, East Asian Studies Center Executive Committee (2015 – 2017)
- Member, Cultural Studies Program Executive Committee (2014-2016)
- Chair, Department of Anthropology Graduate Admissions Committee (2014-2015; 2015-2016)
- Mentor, Graduate Mentoring Center (2016 – 2019)
- Member, Patten Foundation Committee (2013-2016)
- Member, Search Committee for Africanist Anthropologist (2013-2014)
- Member, Center for Research on Race & Ethnicity Faculty Seed Grant Search Committee (2012)
- Member, General Education Committee (2010-2012)
- Organizer, Ethnographers Forum Series (2006, 2007)
- Member, Black Faculty and Staff Caucus (2006-Present)

AFFILIATIONS

- American Anthropological Association
- Association of Black Anthropologists
- Society for East Asian Anthropology
- Society for Cultural Anthropology
- Association of Asian Studies

LANGUAGES

- Jamaican Creole (Native)
- Japanese (Advanced)
- Spanish (Intermediate)