

**MARVIN D. STERLING, PH.D.**  
**Curriculum Vitae**

**ADDRESS**

Department of Anthropology  
Student Building 130  
Indiana University  
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**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)

**ADMINISTRATIVE POSITIONS**

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

**RESEARCH INTERESTS**

**Regional:** Japan, Jamaica, African Diaspora  
**Theoretical:** Race, blackness, mixed-race identities, Afro-Asia, postcolonial theory, globalization, performance theory, human rights, 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

**PUBLICATIONS (Selected)**

**Book (Published):**

Sterling, Marvin D. 2010. *Babylon East: Performing Dancehall, Roots Reggae and Rastafari in Japan*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press.

**Book (In Preparation):**

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

**Refereed 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.

### Refereed Book Chapters:

- 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. 2015. Book Review, "Pink Globalization: Hello Kitty's Trek across the Pacific", *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)

- 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"
- Northeast Asia Council of the Association for Asian Studies Short-term Research Travel Grant 2020
- National Science Foundation, Cultural Anthropology, 2015 (BCS-1528969): "A Postcolonial Regime Analysis of Human Rights Discourse in Jamaica"
- 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

- *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 DEVELOPED (IU Bloomington)**

#### **Lectures:**

- “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)**

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

#### **Journal Manuscript Reviews:**

*Anthropological Quarterly*

*Identities: Global Studies in Culture and Power*

#### **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)