

Exploring Dancehall Culture and Its Masculine Debates

Dancehall emanated from amongst Jamaica's dispossessed in the early 1980s. Since then, it has gained global popularity across multiple borders. In its various manifestations, dancehall celebrates, challenges, critiques, and comments on multiple themes oriented around the lives of Jamaicans, many of whom remain locked in poverty in its marginalized spaces. Dancehall has become renowned for its flashy and vocal deejays, its erotic and expressive women, and its propensity to clash with traditional social mores. Contemporary dancehall continues to fuel local and global fantasies of youth culture and provide opportunities for the economic advancement of many.

This moderated discussion will explore: an overview of dancehall culture, key manifestations of masculine debates, gendered power dynamics, female deejays as key players in a traditionally male-dominated space and dancehall's reflections on sexual orientation. The implications of these masculine exemplars for within and beyond the dancehall will be assessed.



FEATURED SPEAKER: Donna P. Hope, Ph.D., is a Professor of Culture, Gender and Society in the Institute of Caribbean Studies at the University of the West Indies, Mona Campus in Jamaica. Her research areas span popular culture, gender, black masculinities, music and related social issues. Professor Hope is a renowned and sought-after speaker, who has published hundreds of academic and popular articles, as well as five academic books. She is the founder of The Dancehall Archive and Research Initiative (www.dancehallarchive.org) which aims to preserve, innovate and disseminate information about dancehall culture.

DISCUSSION MODERATORS:

Charles Dukes, Ph.D., *Exceptional Student Education*

Sharon M. Darling, Ph.D., *Exceptional Student Education*

FREE & OPEN TO ALL

**Thursday
April 22
5 PM via Zoom**

**RSVP at
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