

*A Webinar series to investigate the power behind art and craft  
and how it relates to identity politics of Blackness in the United States*

From the period of slavery to contemporary practices, African-American artistic expressions have often blurred the boundaries between art and craft, aesthetic and functional production, unique work and utilitarian object. These hybrid forms, long marginalized or relegated to the margins of artistic institutions, have nonetheless constituted an essential terrain for the affirmation of a singular black aesthetic, resistant and deeply rooted in the historical, cultural and material experiences of African Americans.

Weaving together notions of making, gesture, materiality, intertextuality, and transmission, this webinar will examine the ways in which blackness is materialized across a wide range of media, techniques, and practices.

All sessions run from 15H to 16:30 via Zoom link:

<https://syvik-fr.zoom.us/j/92745779021>

ID de réunion: 927 4577 9021

**Friday, 21 November:** Dwayne Lawson, a.k.a. Crochet Kingpin, Community Engagement Specialist for the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities, Lead Designer and CEO, Crochet Kingpin Designs, “Art and Craft: Materializing Blackness in the US Webinar Kick Off”

**Friday, 23 January:** Antonia Rigaud, Sorbonne Nouvelle, “Instrumentalizing Craft? The Case of Theaster Gates’s Yamaguchi Institute”

**Friday, 20 February:** Yannick Blec, Paris 8, “Immaterial Materiality: Hip Hop Discourse between Art, Entertainment, and Black Identity Politics”

**Friday, 20 March:** Neal Lester, University of Arizona, “‘Beyond Books’: Social Justice through ‘Things’ & ‘Stuff’”

**Friday, 22 May:** Deah Berry Mitchell, Toulouse Graduate School, “The Gathering: Food, Memory, and Material Blackness”

**Friday, 19 June:** Clementine Tholas, Sorbonne Nouvelle, and Amy Wells, Université de Caen Normandie, “Art and Craft: Materializing Blackness in the US Webinar Wrap-Up”

*Webinar organizers: Clementine Tholas, Sorbonne Nouvelle, CREW ([clementine.tholas@sorbonne-nouvelle.fr](mailto:clementine.tholas@sorbonne-nouvelle.fr)) and Amy Wells, Université de Caen Normandie, ERIBIA ([amy.wells@unicaen.fr](mailto:amy.wells@unicaen.fr)).*