

Abstract

How can we translate ritual performance, or any other set of bodily enactments, to the page? Given the widespread attention to “embodiment” (and similar terms) in the social sciences, it remains unclear how this has transformed our writing practices. If attention to “the visual” has now been established, what about other senses? Though “the body” remains largely a discursive artifact in academic work, certain ways of writing may convey other senses beyond the visual better than others. This workshop explores the question of just what is at stake with “the body,” and ideas for improving our descriptive and analytical skills.

Paul Christopher Johnson

Professor Johnson has published two books, *Diaspora Conversions: Black Carib Religion* (2007) and *The Recovery of Africa and Secrets, Gossip, and Gods: The Transformation of Brazilian Candomblé* (2002).

Johnson's Guggenheim project is entitled, "To Be Possessed: 'Religion' and the Purification of Spirits." His project examines civil religion in the Americas, especially in the wake of the emancipation of slaves and the perceived dangers of their civil integration.

Related Event

Professor Johnson is also giving lecture on “Joining the African Diaspora: Caribbean Religion 'At Home' and in New York.” It takes place on October 14 (the day before the workshop) at 4:30 p.m. in 128 Pearson Hall.