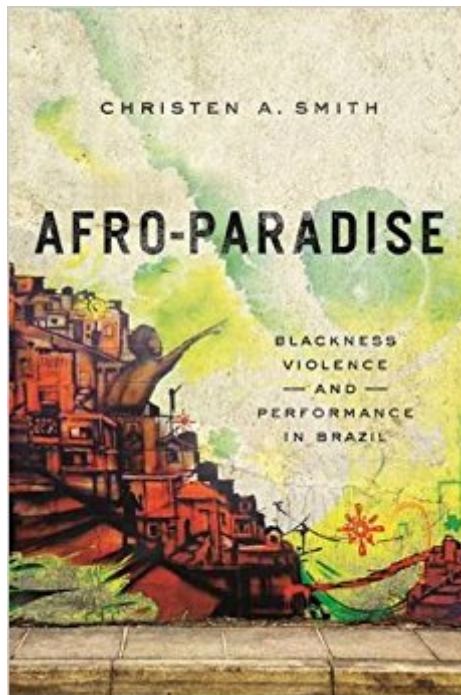


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Afro-Paradise: Blackness, Violence, And Performance In Brazil



Synopsis

Tourists exult in Bahia, Brazil as a tropical paradise infused with the black population's one-of-a-kind vitality. But the alluring images of smiling black faces and dancing black bodies masks an ugly reality of anti-black authoritarian violence. Christen A. Smith argues that the dialectic of glorified representations of black bodies and subsequent state repression reinforces Brazil's racially hierarchal society. Interpreting the violence as both institutional and performative, Smith follows a grassroots movement and social protest theater troupe in their campaigns against racial violence. As Smith reveals, economies of black pain and suffering form the backdrop for the staged, scripted, and choreographed afro-paradise that dazzles visitors. The work of grassroots organizers exposes this relationship, exploding illusions and asking unwelcome questions about the impact of state violence performed against the still-marginalized mass of Afro-Brazilians.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I have seen Christen present her incisive research at conferences and read earlier drafts of this work, in various forms. Yet, I was still stunned by the elegance and power of this book. It's rare to find ethnographic work that is engaging, theoretically sophisticated, and yet accessible, but Christen makes this herculean feat look easy.

Christen Smith is an incredible writer and professor. So so blessed to be able to read this book and listen to her speak about it.

Dr. Smith has written a phenomenal ethnography.

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