

# PRIME MERIDIAN UNCONFERENCE NOTES - Saturday



## Dead Line?: On slowing down in Black “spacetime with Danielle Purifoy

Grounding text and concept — Katherine Mckittrick’s *Plantation Futures*

What approach to Black living is demanded by *Plantation Futures*?  
How do Black People reclaim their time and lives through *Plantation Futures*?

### **Scene 1-** bell hooks, *homeplace* (1990)

Homeplace vs white space — homeplace rooted in Black Livingness (Mckittrick). Homespace offers alternate possibilities where Black people attend to their spirits, develop their own self knowledge.

**Scene 2 -** Catherine Coleman Flowers, Center for Rural Enterprise and Environmental Justice - in the audio clip Flowers describes her home and growing up in Lowndes County, AL  
Her growing up is an example of Creating of a boundary between plantation futures and landscapes and Black home space.

### **dead\*line:**

- 1) the latest time by which some thing should be completed
- 2) historical: a line drawn around a prison beyond which prisoners were liable to be shot

**Scene 3 -** Tamina, TX and their resistance to plantation time and space. They do this by establishing various infrastructures of care, institution and community building that sustains the community. “holding the line” to hold a safe space. Dead\*line between plantation future and future they were claiming for themselves.

### **Scene 4 - Princeville, NC**

Considered to be the first Black incorporated municipality in the U.S. Experiences a lot of flooding. Founded by self-liberated enslaved people during the Civil War.

Created as a Black incorporated municipality to provide Black labor to neighboring town Tarrboro.

Experienced major flooding 8 times and always rebuild. dead\*line is the floodline. Whenever it floods there is a threat to loose the land through land buying. Descendants determined to keep the land of their ancestors.

**Scene 5-** Pullman, Michigan - Dr. Purifoy’s family example. Worked as domestic, served on plantation time. They moved out of the city (Detroit) and created a family compound. They farmed, lived in relationship to land outside of plantation time.

## **Part 1 - grounding lecture/context**

“Oh the feeling of safety, of arrival...” A paradox that there is safety “between the home place and the white space” (who’s voice?)

**Katherine McKittrick - Plantation Futures** "Plantation is an ongoing locust of violence and death."

**Q: What approach to black living is demanded by plantation living?**

**bell hooks - Homeplace (1990)**

- **Homeplace as a type of black geography – safety. A Black feminist space.**
- "The talk about...how we lived and survived as Black folks, how the White folks treated us." (Bell Hooks)

**Catherine Coleman Flowers** - Center for Rural Enterprise and Environmental Justice - "Flowers demonstrates nonlinearity of Black space time" They returned to a space of disorientation and displacement to create home on their own terms, in their own time "setting a firm boundary around the home space"

**Dead \*line - an enclosure**

- **Working definition: the latest time by which something should/can be completed (connection to plantation time)**
- **Historical definition: a line drawn around a prison beyond which prisoners were liable to be shot (a LITERAL dead line)** / (Archaic/ historical definition) A space of enclosure, a prison. If prisoners crossed that boundary, they could be shot.

- "Literal conversion" of White space into Black space = Black families could purchase former slave plantations

**Case study 1:**

**Tamina, Texas - working to establish their own spatial boundaries. Establishing various infrastructures of care and community/institution building. White attempts to encroach, but within the lines of Tamina, they have built a safe space that offers a supportive community centered boundary. A space for eternity via burial and legacy. Closing the gap between plantation future and the future they are building for themselves.** Speakers used Tamina, Tx as space for study, it's shrinking by way of White power. Defining this place as a dead \*line, space of disconnection. "Established infrastructures of care, community/ institution building since 1836" The citizens there have created a safe space boundary around the town even without certain basic necessities like well maintained water ways, etc. "A space for eternity, where they die, where they are buried, where their legacies continue"

**Case study 2:**

**Princeville, North Carolina - historic black town in a flood plain. It is considered to be the first incorporated Black municipality in the US (debated). Their deadline is the flood line. Everytime it floods, the state attempts to take their land, but they have created their own infrastructure to protect the space and learn to operate with the floods, as opposed to against them.** \*\*\*\*\*Princeville, NC subject to constant catastrophic flooding, first incorporated Black municipality in the US - Started as plantation state and over taken by Union army. Compromise after war: Planters sold land to Turner Prince originally named "Freedom Hill" Flooded at least 8times wholly since conception but here (we, Black folks) stay and build and rebuild. Deadline is the boundary of the flood plane. The state tries to take land after every flooding but the citizens refuse to relinquish it.

### Case study 3:

**Pullman, Michigan - Purifoy's personal family story. Maternal family has created a sort of deadline around their family. Migration: Mississippi→Detroit →Michigan. The women were domestic workers, working on plantation time. Built a space in Pullman not just to escape plantation time, but to set an example of harmonious living for the generations to come. Space of homeplace, extended to Pullman Community Center in which their learned family lessons extended as a resource for the entire community.** Pullman, Michigan where speaker's family (matriarchs) set a deadline for their family who migrated from Memphis to Detroit. "They served on plantation time for most of their lives... but wanted to set a different standard of time for us." They did this by moving from Detroit to Pullman and began to "teach us to develop relationship to land without being on plantation time."

## Part 2 - Self reflection/Workshop

### Activity: Where/When is your "deadline"?

**Create a map, image, or any representation of your own spacetime disconnected from racial capitalist patriarchy.**

**Questions: What does it look/sound/smell/taste like? Who is with you? What do you do, or not do? How do you feel?**

Reflection:

**Where/when is your "deadline?"**

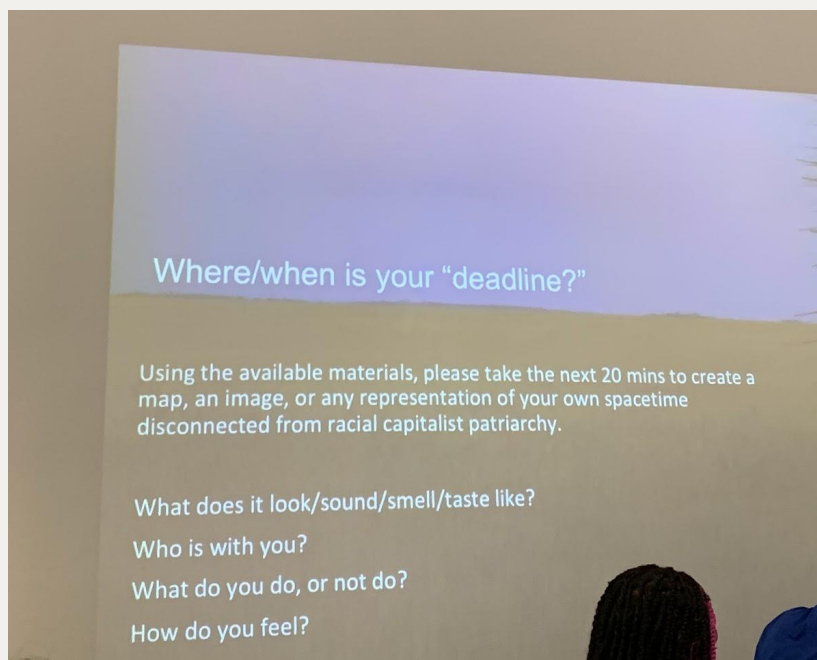
**Using available materials, please take 20 mins to create a map, image or representation of your own spacetime disconnected from racial capitalist patriarchy.**

**What does it look/sound/smell/taste like?**

**Who is with you?**

**What do you do, or not do?**

**How do you feel?**



# **Bending SpaceTime with Botanicals with Asia Dorsey**

- **We began with a plant song because it is one of many multifaceted forms of social technology Black people have employed**
  - “Singing is a technology that gives us access to being and performing in a new space”
  - “physically a social technology to create a group field, coherence...plants help us to do this”
- **Coherence (social meditation as way of regulating autonomic system)**
- **Lemon balm– use plant to change your perception of time and outcomes of realities you live in** - Focusing on lemon balm and how it can change time

## **We did a baseline body check:**

- Are you thinking about something in the past present or future?
- Can you hear the sound of your heart?
- How deep is your breath traveling?
- How close are your shoulders to your ears?
- what is your average length of eye contact?
- **The nature of time is rooted in our bodies and our bodies are rooted to each other as miraculous manifestations of nature**
  - “The nature of time is rooted in our body...time cannot exist without us as observer...our physical bodies are in relation to all bodies around us including those of plants”
  - “Honor the sacred ‘no’ ” - When we honor the “sacred no” we enrich others’ experiences as well as our own
  - We can choose to be observer and opt out of participation but we are still participant by default
  - “Obliterate colonial time” when we share with one another
  - “Diversity of time springs out as we experience the byproduct of relationship”

## **We played the noticing game (in partners), asking a different question in each round. Asia timed each round and after asked us as a group to guess how many minutes passed**

- Being here with you I notice . . .
- Being here with you I appreciate . . .
- Being here with you I notice and imagine . . .

## **As we connected more, more possibilities of experiencing time existed**

- Actual (Round 1: 4 min, Round 2: 4 min, Round 3: 4 min)
- Perceived (Round 1: 4 min, Round 2: 3-6 min, Round 3: 1-6 min)
- Connection is an accelerator
- Perceived time is the actual time
- Claim space and honesty by being in relationship with each other

**Asia said she doesn’t mix herbs in order to get to know them as a person, and call on their spirit** “To emphasize relationship, I don’t mix herbs together...I want to know each herb as a person...this is what the people’s medicine is all about...tell the plant’s story and our story at the same time.” Asia D.

**Oral medicine: we rely on each other's experience to learn about plants (ancestral)** Word of mouth and we rely on each other to learn plants

**Front Line Farms** Asia D. partners w/ urban farms to grow plant medicine (lemon balm, elderberry, mullen, etc)

**Wa du li si**→ **Cherokee name for lemon balm**

- There is no decolonisation of plants (we can't become separate again) → incorporation
- Many weeds followed colonizers to undo the trauma they would cause (they came on their coattails; this is why there's a Cherokee word for a European plant)
- "No decolonization, I cannot extract the white from my bloodlines" lemon balm is a European plant but Cherokee people named it to work with it. The weeds travel to undo the harm that the colonizers cause

**You can read a lawn of house before you move in to see if the plants are friends or allies (how are we reading the earth in the relationship to our movement).** Asia told the story of how her teacher had weeds growing in her garden that were used for pregnancy, and a few weeks later they discovered they were pregnant, and ended up having a difficult pregnancy, where some of the herbs would have been useful (like shepherd's purse for bleeding) "Plants have a specific relation to space/time...they use space and time to be of service and access us...they make themselves available." "Can access the multiplicity of timelines to be in a multiplicity of places." [ "Reading the lawn can save lives." Asia D.

- Plants have a special relationship to space time (because they are differently mobile)
- Plants can access the multiplicity of timelines and collapse based on signals of need
- Mint plants affect our enteric nervous system
  - They can calm the mind and the way it shows up somatically
- Lemon balm eases the fear of the future - "Lemon balm pushes out the time horizon and enables the flow state"
  - Lemon balm evokes flow state - Flow: being so happily inside an activity that time contracts and expands (paraphrase)

**Many indigenous people didn't preserve herbs because they had faith that when they'd need them they'd find them growing**

**Earth constantly seeking to regenerate herself, and us as well**

**Key feature of flow's distortion of time** City push us towards standardized time but nature is a place that we can go to deviate from this (paraphrase) "The present is a relationship to the herb itself."

**Then we discussed things that made us anxious as a group, and then drank the lemon balm to feel the affect** "The temporal nature of people is determined by their anxiety." Simon R./ Pierre Alexander "People who experience anxiety can often show up in spaces and be perceived as narcissists because they are always in their head, thinking about themselves."

"Plants are a chart, a cartography of how the body works" Asia D

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## **Cloud Time with V. Mitch McEwen**

- Coordinates are arbitrary – so much of the measuring of distance and time is arbitrary and based in European context i.e. what is a meter really?
  - "discuss possibility of shifting from coordinate space to coordinate temperature"
  - "I feel cloudy to myself"
  - Math of cloud is the science of individuation "blackness is a universal machine"
  - Cloud science is a science of collectivity
- Clouds are most concerned with not pressure or location, but temperature. Moisture is embodied in the clouds.
- "A cold day is a dry day" ..For it to be humid, its usually warm (generally)
- Intrinsic connection between moisture and temperature
- Lots of equations lol – McEwen explains how this dynamic is captured in physics.
- How to stage an event so that it meets a day – clearing time that is "new"
- Staging arrival prior to it actually happening
- The truth is a quantitative reality of an action
- What is "Instantaneous"?
- Deep ocean can take hundred of years to "understand" what is happening and respond to atmosphere – what is considered instantaneous needs relativity
- Water comes from the ocean, deep ocean takes hundreds of thousands of years to warm (to fully realize)
- Disrupting time line
- Surface temp, slow time scales
- Flux divergence
- How to measure time, sometimes I feel cloudy to myself
- Science of clouds is science of flows
- What other coordinates can we choose?
  - Properties are the meaningful coordinates.
- **Locating fugitive potentials**
  - Temporality of empathy
  - Practicing awareness of need
  - We talk about the weather because we know we're experiencing the same temperature, it's a way we know we can connect
- Weather planes change clouds to rain drops
- Troposphere (where the atmosphere feels the surface, when it turns over we experience weather)

"Population of individuals are all apart of this cycle of water" "each individual cloud is chaotic but the best way to describe it is to describe their behavior collectively"

Audio clip where a Black man discusses multilayers of time as he is experiencing it

# **Occupying Vacancy: Looking at Detroit's Grassroot Activation of Vacant Land and Structures with Ujiji Davis Williams**

Jima Studio from Ujima (collective work and responsibility)

Reparation of broken relationships, systems, and networks as it relates to physical landscape

Landscape reconciliation – defining in practice

Restoring the natural environment and its historic agency

Tale of two Detroits – white affluent downtown/midtown area vs. Black space,

“There are Black people in the future” – Allisha Wormsley. In connection with Richard Pryor joke about the lack of black people in sci-fi. Where did we go then?

What does “new” Detroit look like?

Gil Scott-Heron (1977) – “...and we almost lost Detroit this time. How would we ever get over losing our minds?” disinvestment in communities

Temporal context is the 70's in Detroit

“We thought about the changing reference of our new world. As it stood already in the old ruins” – Amiri Baraka (1967)

How do you imagine new, when surrounded by devastation?

Sun RA –Black people are not real, they are a myth... they are excluded and ignored therefore don't exist. Turning this negative into a positive to think about Blackness as a generative space.

**Q:** What is a black space? What is the future of black spaces?

**A:** A black space is a place where the construct of racialized oppression is absent. How that manifests physically has infinite possibilities because Blackness is not a monolith.

Sitting at the precipice of vision and memory – this theme is very present in the Black Arts Movement, i.e. works of Faith Ringgold and Romare Bearden.

Eidetic Mapping – superimposing time based data over geography. James Corner

What is present, what is past, what is possible?

**What program used to make these maps?**

**Case study:** Hazelwood activation – 3 contiguous lots that community wanted to turn into active community space. Passive recreation space, gardening,

## **Resting in public**

What does it mean for Detroit to reclaim land that has been stolen?

“There is a tale of two Detroits. 1 that is affluent. 1 that is white. Middle place is Black excellence/affluence but the other Detroit...2 blocks from my house...seems sucked dry.”

See Gil Scott-Heron, 1977 from “We almost lost Detroit”

What does Detroit look like in the future?

**Canfield Connect:** Detroit has biking culture despite perception as “motor city” – working towards building a path that connects park to school.

**Task:** How do you create a greenway system that can be respected by the city while honoring the communication needs for safety, privacy, recreation.

## **Establishing design guidelines**

Sometimes you get the opportunity to aspire and conceptualize, and build the momentum, and it doesn't pan out. Even if a project is not successful, does it count? How?

How to do this work without drawing developers that seek to complete these projects through a displacement lens?

Ownership vs. preservation

Big generational difference in how people think about neighborhoods - older folx are less likely to be affable to change. V different sentiment across younger population who may be more propensed towards dynamic environments.

There isn't currently a way to connect structural vacancy with the people who need the houses.

*What are the attitudes towards safety in the spaces you're designing?*

*How do questions of safety in Black Spaces get address considering different partners, and different identities?*

**Prioritizing community safety by activating spaces**

**those who mean to do harm will utilize space that hasn't been activated**

**when spaces come back online as community serving assets, it addresses some of the safety challenges/vulnerability when they're underutilized**

**Desire to be black and angry in a safe place- main streets solicit different types of responses to what is permissible.**



**In the same way we need space for rest, where is the space for dialogue  
Many of these activations and generating spaces for congregation.**

**Lots of contradiction in relationship to autonomy and authority.  
Where does the concept of neighborhood come from, and are there other useful  
frameworks we should explore for being in community with each other?**

*What are your thoughts on the possibilities of Black Spaces in the future?*

**Mapping – layers of efficiency – the grid structure does that... but indigenous thought  
doesn't always follow those ideologies. The future looks like a relief of efficiency ...**

**Participating in spaces in ways that don't rely on normative  
structures/relationships, resisting racialized laws that surveil black bodies/black  
timelines**

**Black Space is not a definition but a journey, process. This means collapsable  
present-future relationship.**

“A lot of their vision is a reflection of their memory” “a lot of their memory is a reflection of their vision”

**Questions about sound:** we know summer's here because folks start playing their music,  
sound is a way to create black space- how could that work in a neighborhood, and has it  
been implemented?

**Often music components incorporated into design-** amphitheaters, stages, performances  
spaces are staples of these shared spaces- it's assumed that the work would feature venues  
for music making. Maybe that's taking things for granted?

**Questioning:** who is this for? Is it always reflective of the city and the sound?  
Motown reflects this industriousness of Black People

**Dichotomy: how is music used as part of an everyday experience for the people it comes  
from, or as an advertisement to someone from elsewhere?**

Even though lots are vacant- they have always been places. There's always a memory of  
something that has been/has happened. Pointing back to the precipice of memory and  
vision. How do we redress those places into a context that is relevant now without erasing  
those memories? Desire to transform and reimagine space is how folks are giving value to  
seemingly blank areas, recognizing the value of the land and its story.

There's a need to formalize these processes to prevent the extraction/commodification of  
these localized processes of transformation. Ujiji hopes to support people in navigating that  
process.

“Space is the Place” Sun RA says, Black folks aren't real, we're a myth because we aren't acknowledged by  
the law.

“Working definition of Black space is a place where the construct of racialized oppression is not existent.”

Speaker works to reimagine demoralized and desolate spaces in Detroit. Serves to fill the space in a way that is helpful to the specific community and includes spaces for play and other necessities that are not currently present there in the physical realm.

Speaker looks upon a space and asks, “How can this become an inviting space?”

“A grid is efficiency and living any other way is not.” but Black folks come from ciphers like an opposite to this (paraphrase)

Black space happens in its own speed and time. “Doesn’t rely on the normative structure of efficiency.”

# Timecasting with Entropy & Lasers with Kendra Krueger

## **Intuitive Technology (the original pattern)**

Any type of technology is something that is moving or shaping Energy, Information and Matter. The original technology is a pattern - a replicated memory that is able to travel through time. Fundamental patterns exist that blend and build to form new patterns and new ways of existing, **Intuitive technology = the original pattern**

- **Technology is the transformation of Energy – Information – Matter**
- **The aspect of knowing and certainty is a fundamental element**
- *What comes up for you when you hear the word technology:* Instrumentality, pyramids, improvement, creating convenience/ease/tension, adornment,
- **A pattern is a replicating piece of information that transfers through time**

## **Patterns, Physics, Archetypes, Thermodynamics**

- Thermodynamics - the study of change, the study of energy

**Patterns of nature – these patterns are not inherently bad or good, its how and where we apply them. There is a bristling against hierarchies, but they are sometimes necessary.**

- Branching - lungs/roots/ - these systems gather resources and spread outwards... but there is a lack of resilience in these systems – if you cut off one pathway, the whole system is off
- Networks – mushrooms, brains// very energy intensive,
- Patterns not necessarily bad or good. Just systems that produce different results, apply best to different situations.

**Branch systems** - systems that are good at distributing resources from a central source outwards. But there is fragility in this systems.

## **Network Systems (brain, mushrooms)**

Information can travel in many different directions. However these systems require a lot of energy.

## **Q. What are some of your favorite patterns?**

- Wind patterns – transitioning between winter and summer – **Circles, branches, spirals, network**
- Waves
- Challenges of resistance – push/pull of equal forces
- Sacred geometry – patterns within bodily functions/ biomimicry/ birth rebirth/
- Flow of money and attention in international discourse

## **Chaos vs Order**

So much breaks down into order vs disorder and control.

Chaos vs. Order - duality consciousness

Entropy – flow of nature to create new options

Omega = multiplicity; how many combinations can exist in a system?

One of the ways that we perceive time is through change. Our consciousness is forever moving towards increased complexity.

States of change can be linear or non linear.

**Entropy** - flow of nature to create new options, new configurations of life, energy and information. “Entropy is the flow of nature to create new options...”

One of the ways we perceive time is through change. **One way we perceive time is through change (increasing entropy complication)**

Open up to complexity. In order to open up to complexity and the danger of the unknown you must be dialed into your own frequency.

## **Utilizing Patterns off Entropy or Order**

-spontaneous change, Miracles vs. stability

### **States of Change**

Linear (incremental change, steady pace) vs Non Linear (exponential change, instantaneous change)

### **Change requires work?? - Thermodynamics says yes but also no**

Work = Force X Distance (Physics definition)

Power = Work/Time (Physics definition)

- Participant – “this formula is interesting because in this hegemonic colonial white supremacist project, power equates to violence and is harnessed through STOLEN work and time.”

Using chaotic energy

Stochastic resonance (crayfish see easier in cloudy water)

Instantaneous change

Dark matter is information (futurist article)

### **Q. How do we gather and use entropic energy/information/matter?**

Signal noise - stochastic resonance (sonic entropy)

### **Resonance systems - a system that can actually filter and capture the harmonics to amplify // instruments and catching the frequency**

**Resonance Systems** - A system that can actually filter and capture the harmonics to AMPLIFY

- Instruments
- Catching the frequency
- **Stochastic resonance** – finding clarity in randomness and increased noise. Nature moves towards this e.g. crayfish can actually see better when the water is cloudy

### **Multiplicity Consciousness**

- Order (oppressive or safe)
- Entropy (magic or destabilization)

### **Spontaneous change, miracles, divination, trust, stability, discernment, systems**

### **What are we using these tools for? Liberation, healing, pleasure, consciousness exploration**

Does change require work? Thermodynamics says yes but also no

Dark matter is INFORMATION.

How do we gather and use entropic energy/information matter?

**Rituals are examples of resonant technologies – you need a container and similar repeating patterns, charge it up with your energy** Systems are rituals - Systems are patterns stacked atop one another

“Indigenous ways of knowing are from these natural patterns that exist.” “We live in a very fractal universe...”

“Intuitive technology [is] the original pattern”

"Any technology is a way of moving, transforming matter" "Energy and matter can be transferred back and forth"

"A pattern is a replicated memory transported through time." "Patterns in nature exist as archetypes and characters and we can utilize them"

Can we explain and explore the internal and external world together? Science and nature and art, etc (multidisciplinary)

Branch sys distribute resources from center in out. Fragility in the sys when branches are cut, because sources can no longer leave the center, system becomes decentralized

Different structures necessitate different structures "So much breaks down into order v disorder"

"Intoxicated by the untamable...always wanted to be messy" entropy

"Me and my entropy" "recast my identity in the science of entropy"

Boltzman's Constant is a fundamental constant in nature.

"Omega represents multiplicity. How many constants can exist in a situation? Only one direction that mixture, that entropy goes. Cannot return to what it was before. We perceive time through change."

"It's dangerous in the unknown...it's undifferentiated...so much you can lose your mind on."

"Gotta get solid on what's your fundamental frequency then you can open up your boundaries"

Change is both linear and nonlinear steady and instantaneous (paraphrased)

"How much work do we have to do and how much energy do we need to make it happen?"

"Slowing time changes our relationship to power" Asia D.

Reductionism "if we can break it down into smaller pieces then we can understand it and control it"

"Must go into a process of disconnection to choose whether we want to connect or now"

We created a laser by way of sound by starting with a Bassline and introducing different elements or both order and chaos over time "Achieved laser focus moment when we vibrated at the same frequency"

**Resonant technology → jewelry for healing -  
Crystals were placed under praise houses during enslavement**

# **Epochs, Ages, and Yugas: Macro-Temporal Texture and the Expiration of White Power with Thomas Stanley**

- Acknowledgment of Saturday, of Good Friday, Easter Sunday, of Ancestors and contributors to
- Music Adorns Time, makes kind that which is most punishing, and ultimately lethal to organism like us.
- Musicians have to keep time
- T. Stanley was born in a time when recording was in its Zenith in Cincinnati, Ohio. James Brown's recording studio there, Bootsy Collins lived there.
- Up until the mid 60's, it was uncommon for a recording to have its recording date on it. Inexpensive to produce and buy purchase
- **Music is about the Past:**  
We've all come to treat our shared musical experiences as an emotion repository
  - It is a fixation of previously lived moments awaiting reactivation!
  - Recalls first time a friend played for him the first hip-hop he'd ever heard. Rapper's Delight. Recalled wondering where it was all going.
- **Is music ever about the Future**  
Before something becomes canon is when we want to hear it.
- **Keeping Time**
  - Building connections from embodiment perceptions
  - Perception of microtime Grounded in brain structures, carrying fundamental information from all tissues of the body create pulses
  - AIC is a core component of our perception of time.

## **Measuring Time**

Century (how long expect to live)  
Decade (longest measure of time we can track)  
Year  
Month

Day  
Hour  
Minute  
Second

## **Measuring Deep Time:**

Eon (billions of year)  
Era (millions of years)  
Period (Period- several within an era)  
Epoch (a fixed temporal reference point)  
Age (identified by invention?)

**Geological time scale subdivides the earth's geological timeline and mystery into the above frames. It is continuously modified and updated based on data and discovery**

**Measuring Deep Time: Hindu**

A Yuga Cycle each lasting 4,320,000 years (12,000 divine years) and repeats four yugas (world ages): Krita (Satya) Yuga, Treta Yuga, Dvapara Yuga, and Kali Yuga.

**Measuring Deep Time: Maya**

Kin (day), Uinal, Tun, Katun, Baktun, Sun

- **Number of years based on this christian convention is dominant around the world.**
- **More recently, spaces have renamed BC and AD - as BCE and CE, which still frame time in reference to the birth of Christ, though the language is removed.**
- **\*lordship is a problem. Lordship is a very large problem.\***
- **Whomever this god is speaking to is being told they own everything and everyone else, and to subdue them.** The pernicious lines of code that underwrite and morally predicate the entire project of empire of every relating sin.
- **ONTOLOGICALLY FOUNDATIONAL** to ordering lives out of Ibrahimic myth structure. Dominion and subjugation, Dominion is absolute ownership, unchecked. To subdue is to bring under control by exertion of will.

**Genesis 1:26-28 onerous polarity of master-slave relationship.**

Prime directive in conquest and subjugation; we only perceive the world by our capacity to own it.

**bringing all parts under the lordship of language**

**Solar Myth: Sun Ra**

- We didn't come here as people; we came here as cargo and merchandise, and properly all our concerns would be better directed to
- Thankfully we need not be bound to human nature (limiting deplorable condition)
- Sun Ra's pursuit was not shallow happiness of hedonistic release, but a deep state of bliss, shared by mystics and small children lost in play)
- Racial Trauma is a Psychic Wound: Trauma is a past suffering experienced
- Contemporaneous suffering
- Past wound whose pain/suffering punctures the present, without readily apparent cause
- Suffering traumatize doomed to carry forward brought on by echo of the original crime.
- Our ancestors were brought here to build a country for Europeans, appliances to serve as whiteness, tools to serve white history.
- Ancestors were protohumans/fleshbots. Outwardly human, but tampered with altered at the level of its programming, self-determination and liberty has been overwritten by codes of subservience.

**Alter Destiny vs. Manifest Destiny:**

Stories that sow the seeds of creation of empires can undo them, can reshape the psychic mold of a people can remold the political and spiritual temper of an age.

## **Ben Okri, Birds of Heaven 1996**

### **ALTER DESTINY (Sun Ra) - not to be confused with a social revolution or messianic paradigm**

- Language with effect- the only plausible future is alter destiny
- Interviewed Sun Ra - in 1997.
- Alter Destiny is Mechanism for arriving in decoloniality - a mechanism and vehicle
- Very deliberately encourage not to think of ourselves as a people once colonized. Decolonized means understand
- Future Jacking - strangest kind of kidnapping of time
- Decolonizing consciousness is decolonizing time
- Owning oneself is to create oneself. To create oneself is to first and foremost create time- time perceived as the foundation of any subjectivity, an time properly speaking meaning the time of new forms of life.-Achille Mbembe
- Didn't descend from a mountain with rules of prescriptive strictures.
- Avowed generalist, not a consensus builder. Often Perceived as a contrarian
- Alter Destiny is not a realism, there cannot be a project.
- It's luminous details for the time being must remain perpetually on the tip of the tongue"
- Ultimately it is an evangelism. The world is already ended, from this composted fertility will grow- not only new trees, but new children.
- \*Performance and reading of excerpts from Beloved\*

#### **-FUNK ENTENLECHY-**

#### **-FUNK ESCHATOLOGY-**

Decolonize Time

AD is Alter Destiny

### **Slavery is evil precisely because it monetizes human beings**

#### **#NOTUBMANTWENTY**

#### **MYTH WAR - when you lose your quee**

When a fresh stack of tubmans is used to purchase a child?  
she belongs to us, a black hero before all else

### **We will never be happy inside the mansion we built for white people**

I didn't have a concept of people being value coded based on phenotype  
the good stuff for my people and for the world is on the other side of America.

Burn is down- I don't recommend it; you'll not beat them in a shooting war  
2-leave: I don't wanna leave- it's more than money/systems

This land, these rivers, these teachings

3-"Outlive the motherfucker: America is standing on shaky legs, an empire in decline, be a good field nigga and blow on this shit."

**I'll meet you in the whirlwind.**



# PRIME MERIDIAN UNCONFERENCE NOTES - Sunday



## **CHRONOMORPHISM: A Conversation on the Black Speculative Science of Time Travel with Dwayne McDuffie**

*Multimedia from this presentation will be linked on twitter, tagged under #TimeZoneProtocols*

- Chronomorphism: The ability and commitment to connect past real & imagined experiences with present & future liminal moments.
  - “About time and shape”
  - “Last 600 years, imposing standard rationality is killing us”
  - Will discuss “the search for order in terms of time”
  - Indoctrination in terms of time “what day of the week, what time it is, where I must be...the conditioning is profound”
- Chronomorphism is an infinite way to escape this conditioning
- If we could teach people to break out of standard time, there is a metaverse of possibilities available to us all.
- Earliest memory of breakdowns of time/measurement was as a child, waiting for a show that would air following 60 minutes. An hour long program seemed never ending in anticipation. Looking at the stopwatch as a child on 60 Minutes was the beginning of an indoctrination 60 min starts with a stopwatch - At 5 years he watched 60min and thought it felt like 10 years but as he has aged, the perception of time changed. “A watched pot never boils”
- Challenging the Search for Order since 1881- subjecting humanity to a sense of linear time
- Obsession with measurement transforms western world, needs to be broken.
- What’s happened to humanity with the imposition of this standardized rationality? Overscheduled, undervalued
- The conditioning is profound, and teaching Chronomorphism is a way to escape the crush of standard time.
- Three most common breakdowns of time measurement:
  - Microtime, Standard Time, Macrotime
- Cosmic Zoom:
  - Motion Picture of a Boy rowing down a river - picture freezes, becomes a painting; Zooms out from image to landscape,

countryside, north America, globe, galaxy, cosmos - the child has become infinitesimally small. Cosmic zoom “motion pic of little boy and dog in canoe and then the picture freezes and then the pic zooms out until you eventually get the a galaxy/ universe image...the boy becomes so small that you can't imagine that tge boy exists then the zoom goes back into the boy and then zooms into a mosquito biting the boy's hand and down to the atoms of the mosquito...”

- Zoom takes you back to the child, and then freezes and Zooms in
- Hand, holding oar, mosquito on hand, blood being drawn, blood cells. Now child is so universally large, it's impossible to conceive how small we are
- We are simultaneously universal and infinitesimal, in every moment.
- BLACK SCI-FI Warriors of Color (AOL) - Predates Afro Futurism
- Dwayne would go on found his own spaces for these conversations
  - The Maestro's Page, where he gathered and Aggregated content
- Milestone Media- Justice League Unlimited - DC Comics Animated Universe
- Shadow Cabinet: Dharma and Destiny storyline
- Group of heroes who operate in the shadows, solving problems no one else sees
- The illuminati - hidden coordination of how conflicts are solved before they become crisis
- Dharma sees what comes next and is comitem to prevent catastrophe that unfolds form any where
  - Allow when you need to prevent when you have to
- Is everything that comes inevitable, or do we have choices?
- Chaos and Complexity theory - time map at Unconference is an excellent example
- The ability and commitment to connect past real & imagined experiences with present and future liminal moments.
- Fundamental Relationship: Representation of Black Men and Black Women in Comic
- For most of the time - comics reinscribed violence of the plantation through the representation on interracial relationships. “Comics were reinscribing the sexual violence of the plantation by only representing interracial relationships as White men and Black women only.” Presenter wrote a letter to studios demanding a change. “Breaking out of the modes of modernity that separate us from one another”

- In 2001, first moment multiracial BIPOC relationship appears in comic, starts of breaking out of modes that dehumanize Black folks.
- Dwayne Re Matrix: Comics are irrelevant- everything we can do with drawing, we can do in CGI
- **From this space Created convergence Media:** the way that stories are made in multiple platforms, creating different universes to interrogate who we are and how we connect through story.
- **Dwayne creates/produces Justice League Unlimited: At the end of season one of Justice League:** time doesn't mean anything to the flash: able to move so quickly that a God-like being with unlimited power can't react.
- **How can an application of Chronomorphism achieve that same end?**
- As Justice League evolves, Dwayne continued to develop this theme until his Death.
- McDuffie invented convergence media "it exists in television, film, comics, novels, video games...creates all these different universes to explain who we are..."
- "If we had the power of 'The Flash' how much could we get done?" "Time doesn't matter"
- "How does it let us deconstruct what we assume to be impermeable boundaries?"
- "McDuffie is exploring through 'Owl Man' his own nihilism...do we believe in empowering each other or do we believe in destroying each other?"
- How can you create deep philosophical questions through animation?
- All Star Superman - monstrous graphic novel that confronts Superman's mortality
- How does Superman pass on dignity and hopes for equity to a world that will exist without him? "His (McDuffie) relationships with his future wife and his friends allow Superman to be human"
- Simultaneously micro and macro beings
- McDuffie used this as a way to stay connected to those this work would impact.
- Shadow Cabinet (Dharma and destiny)
- -Story where characters are solving societal issues in the shadows
- "How do you all chaos and manage it when you need to?" "Both chaos and order"
- "Do we have choices?" "No one path but lots of choices"
- **Activity: Four Qualities Exercise**
  - Grateful practice for introspection as a way to break out of the crush of time."exercise allows us to tap into moments when time is bent"
  - 1- Animal (deep, positive feelings and affection for)
    - What four qualities engender that affection?
  - 2- Object, something non-living (affinity for, connection to)
    - What four qualities you associate with that object
  - 3- Body of Water
  - Now count backwards from 100, listening to the sounds in the room.

## **Grief Reparations and Temporal Hush Harbors with Joy Tabernacle**

- **Delineation between plantation time, natural time, ceremonial time, ancestral time and CP time**
  - Ceremonial time: space outside of mundane time to connect with ancestral time, future time, and beings outside of time itself. Without enough we don't have psychic space to envision what it's like to be outside of oppression
  - CP time: is in more alignment with Natural time but exists under surveillance of plantation time
- You have to disconnect from ancestral time in order to separate past, present, and future as isolated events/experiences
- **Plantation Time: linear, forced time geared toward production that is marked by:**
  - american mythology, destruction of cyclical rites, capitalism
- Other markers of Plantation/American Mythology Time (contributed by participants)
  - "Giving back time" when meetings end early
  - "Time is money"
  - Assignment of federal holidays that reinforce white supremacy/patriarchy (presidents day, veterans day, ect)
- **Domestic Militarism of Black temporality**
  - Being safer to travel at certain times of day
  - Policing of Black people gathering communally on stoops
  - Vagrancy laws
  - Stop & Frisk
  - Non stop surveillance of the white gaze enforces Plantation Time
  - Destruction of timelines of Black communalism (Tulsa)
  - Chronic displacement of Black people/communities
- **White Pathological Terrorism**
  - Adultification of Black children
  - Shortened Black life expectancy
    - Time is stolen from Black people's life which extends that of whites
  - Black health disparities
  - "We are aging at least 10 years faster than our white counterparts"
- **Grief Reparations: giving space, time, resources, funding for Black people to collectively and somatically process traumatic experiences & death (regardless of when these events occurred) Through:**
  - Ritual, rest, kickbacks, celebrations, ect
  - Ongoing commitment to dismantling Plantation time
- White people can be an accomplice to Black grief reparations by donating a day's/weeks/months wages to Black people, donating time off, donating

labor, donating to Black healing events, funeral funds, and historical preservation funds

- **Temporal Hush Harbors: Hush harbors were places where enslaved folks escaped plantation time to enact ceremonial time to reconnect with ancestral/ natural time. Some times this wasn't always physically possible, so it had to occur temporally (ie in dream/vision state)**
  - High John the Conquer
  - Harriet Tubman

What we need is a song, something to ride on, reach inside yourself get em out put em on - High John the Conqueror, Zora Neale Hurston

The only grace you can have is what you can imagine (Baby Sug's speech)

- "Plantation time geared towards production and inherently dangerous to Black people" (How can we maximize the production of a body?)
- "Natural time supports communal kinship"
- "CPT measurement and observation of time closer to natural time but policed by plantation time" "Doesn't exist outside of plantation time because it is in opposition to it"
- Ceremonial Time is a necessary component of natural time, it's time given for ritual to return to self
- Hush harbors are places where Black people went to create Ceremonial Time.
- "Leave your work tired bodies and massa will never know you left here..." (escape without physically leaving) Zora Neale Hurston High John The Conqueror
- "To think of time as past present and future (linear time) one must disconnect from ancestral time"
- "Theft of time via domestic militarism"
- Phrases that uphold plantation time "What are you so angry about? That was so long ago?...what you so mad about? You could be in a hut!"
- Custody/Foster care system, prison industrial complex, war on drugs, stop and frisk, police murder of children/ adult indication of children, disrupting play time, medical racism,
- "The only time we rest is to inform leisure times of whiteness"
- History beginning in 1776 "empty expansive nature"
- "Myth of progress"
- So many ways to measure time. It can be measured by grabbing someone's hand who has a grandmother who's mother's mother's mother may have been a slave
- "Chronic displacement looks like white land grabs, developing ghettos and demolishing them every 30/40 years "
- "White pathological terror steals time from Black people..."
- "Fight or flight turns into wear and tear"
- "Giving space, time, resources and funding for Black folks to process grief..."
- "Grief reparations gives Black people back their time and that time stolen from their ancestors..."

## **Black Fugitive Infrastructures and Cross-time Space Routines with Celeste Winston**

- **Maroon Geography**: Flight from slavery along with spaces of freedom through continuing Black struggles
- Maroon Geographies as **Fugitive Infrastructure**: Ways that everyday people come together to create their own systems to sustain their lives even when survival seems impossible.
  - “A grounded, systematic basis for flight.”
  - Highlights the ways Black people have pushed back against violence that aren't individual, but are collective and sustaining.
- **Black Flight as Fugitive Infrastructure**
  - **Example 1: Montgomery County, MD**
    - Site of multiple (7) free/fugitive Black communities
    - Underground Railroad stops were in this county
    - Became a homeplace for Black people when MD abolished slavery
  - **Example 2: (1972) Carolyn Twiman** was stopped by a cop on the route that maroons had traveled centuries before, and she refused to stop and just drove on, passing the jail they had been jailed in and finally died in a fatal car crash. The context of this story is different and still carries through this idea of maroonage across time.
- I just held a ritual space on Friday with some folks in DC celebrating the anniversary of Pearl Escape, which was the largest escape attempt of Black people in the country. It happened right of the DC wharf. It was 77 people and they escaped on a boat before being caught. This presentation is making me think of the waters or "freedom alleys" as a part of fugitive infrastructure - Alexis M (notetaker)

### **Questions/Discussion from the Audience**

- **How do you balance stasis and movement within the concept of Maroonage?**
  - Holding Place. Black people creating geographic refuge
  - How this relates to abolition - creating areas of refuge from police
- Toby, MD- one of the maroon townships still exists and Black folks are like a “nucleus” surrounded by well off White and Persian communities
- Block Parties as holding of space
- The Metro PCS blasting gogo music on georgia ave (site of extreme gentrification/Black displacement in DC) as a marker of place by Black people
- Curious about the digital space in facilitating gatherings of former maroon/fugitive/resistance spaces that have been displaced
- **Where do we locate the maroon in the future we're building?**

- How do we position it outside of resisting anti-black violence
  - Care networks, cooperatives, worlds that

**Protocol: How might we locate sites and possibilities of fugitive infrastructure across time?**

## **Black Fugitive Infrastructures and Cross-time Space Routines with Celeste Winston**

- Time is the self extended
- Experience informs your relationship with time → can embody more time
- I'm living in the future as I'm marching toward you
- Time is the erosion of the earth, peeled and stacked
- Witnessing changes to the landscape
- Time is the moving body in practice
- Time + keeping score
- Versace signal from Cameroon
- Time sensed as wet
- Time can be enacted through braiding, weaving
- Dance annotations, what time could look like
- Deja vu= fill circle

**When we embody time together we can create new ways of relating to time**

**Concept** - Fugitive infrastructures and how they support Black liberation across time.

**“if freedom is a place, what does it look like to create a place of Black freedom?”** Questions inspired by Ruth Wilson Gilmore's work of understanding freedom spatially

Abolition Geography and the Problem of Innocence freedom is a already existing place and it is a Black place.

**Maroon geographies** - flight from slavery along with spaces of freedom produced through continuing Black struggles

### **Maroon geographies as fugitive infrastructure**

Fugitive infrastructure (Cowen 2017) are material arrangements produced through cumulative efforts by everyday people to organize and sustain life when possibilities for survival seem foreclosed

Tension between two words Fugitive (flight, temporary) and infrastructure - (grounded, lasting) **how is Black flight a grounded, lasting type of movement**

### **Ex. Maroon geographies in Montgomery County, MD**

Many routes of underground railroad go through this place. Maryland becomes a place of flight for Black people.

Focus Area (towns in Montgomery County)



Sandy Spring  
Haiti/Martin's Lane  
Sugarland  
Tobytown  
Scotland  
Lincoln Park  
Ken-Gar

### **1845 Montgomery County**

As written in the Montgomery Journal - Fugitives in broad daylight, in a densely settled town with guns in hand began making their way to freedom. The group was accosted but many were able to flee. Majority (31 people) were detained. Example of a fugitive infrastructure that shaped the county.

### **1972 Carolyn Twyman in Tobytown**

Urban renewal used to destroy fugitive infrastructures in Black Places. Twyman is stopped by police on the same road that the group of maroons fled on in 1845. She was chased by police and crashed 3 miles later. The temporal context shifted from 1845 but there is a spatial overlap of policing to prevent Black flight and freedom.

### **Fugitivity is an actively evolving process, shifting to new spatial and temporal contexts.**

When we zoom out to think of fugitive infrastructure we begin to see concrete evidence of freedom that we can turn to

Maroonage as an act of holding ground - we are going to stay here and create a space of freedom

Q. From the audience- Could some digital spaces be seen as a maroon geography?

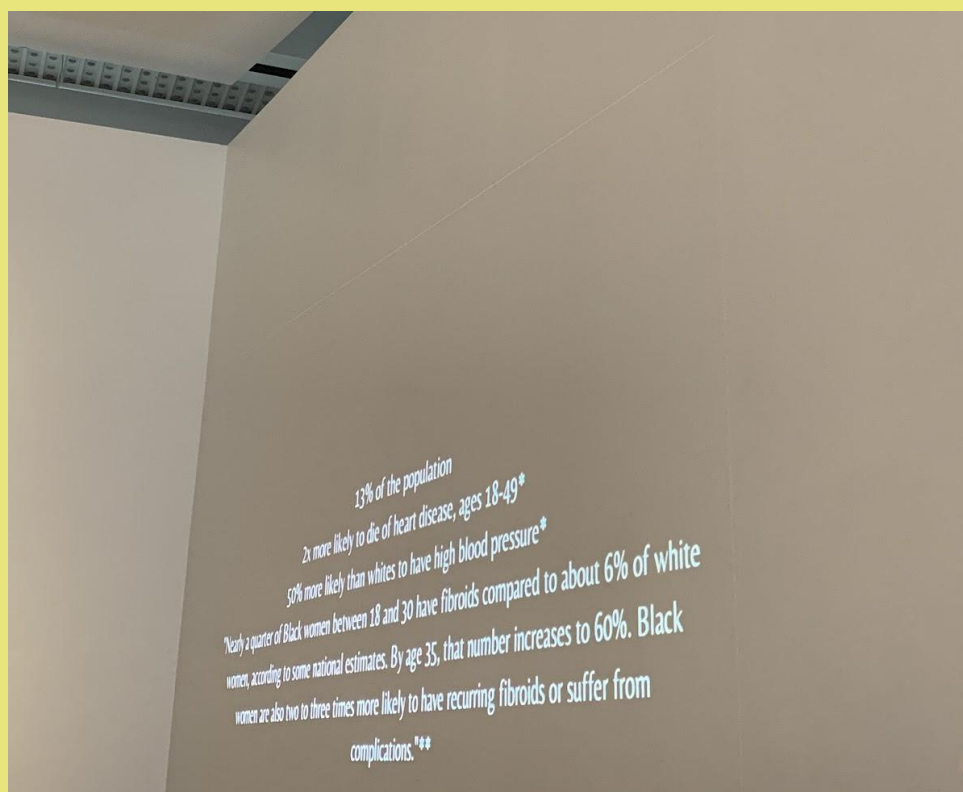
BQF and Unconference could be understood as a maroon geography

1. Name a present-day anti-Black or other violent system, institution, or practice that you would like to focus on for this session.
2. What is your knowledge of the history of that system/institution/practice? How does or might it connect with the history of slavery, colonialism, or imperialism?
3. Spend some time thinking about popular solutions for reforming or abolishing that system/institution/ practice. What kinds of people and places do those popular solutions come from?
4. What space routine might exist across time that demonstrates a longstanding infrastructure that refuses and pushes back against that system/institution/practice?

## The Future of Time: The Metaverse and Black Health with Ingrid LaFleur

- **There are Black people in the future** (artist work a black billboard with white writing)
- “My mom would look at me and could tell when it was time for me to travel...”
- “Decided to go to Africa and date a couple of countries...Africa because the vibration is different and time is different...time becomes more expansive and generous.”
- **How time is expressed in different places (portuguese is spoken more slowly in Bahia than Sao Paolo and Rio)-- time is expressed in food, language, body, music)**
  - “Besides the time being slow (in Africa) how is it being expressed?” Language is spoken at a slower rate and this creates “a culture of chillness”
  - “Not everyone can go abroad and experience different time and how it is expressed...”
- “(Timesickness) creates an urgency in us that can create heart disease, etc”
- “Activists get stuck in this state and they inspire my work”
- **“We are probably going to live longer than we think”**
- **Mental healthy + multi temporal living (left the US because it was killing me more quickly)**
- **How can multitemporal healthcare be created?**
- **Larry Dossey, MD : Linear time is constantly escaping, creates urgency that can lead to high blood blood pressure etc**
- **Grievors (Adriene Marie Brown) - -Grievors by Adrienne Maree Brown**
  - “People become stoic and stuck and die in that state because they can’t sleep or eat...”
- **Fibroids (holding time, discarded material, that holds memories)**
  - Fibroids manifest as a result of plantation time and stress
  - “Memory within that discarded material that we are holding within us (fibroids)”
- **Kemetic sydrical calendar**
- **3 days on, 2 days off, 3 days on, 2 days off is a week**
- **Nettice Gaskin, Metaverse “art show”**
- **Possibilities to connect in virtual worlds, (ancestral knowledge)**
- Metaverse: The connection of different virtual worlds
- **Ancestral AI→ have an ancestor who could speak to you, help you through a problem (proces)**
  - “Ancestral AI” Have an ancestor available via an App and an ancestor would be able to support you in times of stress
- **What do we want ancestors (to tell them and share?)**
- **Owning the means of production -**
- Everyone may not be able to access/ connect with ancestors so the metaverse could be a space to tap in readily. Not everyone is comfortable communing in real life. Immersive spaces can help with learning retention. “We (Blacks folks) should put our stamp on it...”

- **Technology is dependent on crystals and minerals and materiality**
- **[Secretgarden@stephaniedinkins.com](mailto:Secretgarden@stephaniedinkins.com)** - Secret Garden (stephaniedinkins.com) immersive experience of her family's history
- **Neurospeculative afrofeminism** - A virtual hair salon where folks can go to get downloads "Collective memory and how to transfer and distribute it within a digital space..."
- **How to transfer and distribute collective memory in a virtual space**
- **Elders and children love virtual spaces (virtual realities help with retention)**
- **The US as a pyramid scheme**
- **Prototyping alternative realities in the metaverse**
- **Different modes of hacking and coding (I'm not a hacker but I hack-Agua)**
- **Deprogramming around expectation and inevitability**
- **Disrupting what we think of as wealth (children can never be behind)**
- **Technology as a tool for me**
- Folks are buying land in the Metaverse (Barbados Diplomatic Embassy)
- Over 10 worlds of virtual reality available right now
- What does grief, ceremony making, ritual, etc look like in the metaverse? How can we create healing spaces in the metaverse? How can we have agency within this digital space?
- Daniel Lee Bradwick
- "As much as we need to know how to garden, we need to know how to code."
- "Significant ways that technology can help Black lives."
- "Are we increasing surveillance on our (intuitive technologies)"
- "We are unintentionally supporting empire by giving away our data everyday" "We should (learn to code) to hack this data surveillance"
- Black Chain Texhnology (info fills up in one ledger and cannot be changed after)
- Mesh Networks being developed in Detroit to close the data disenfranchisement gap.



## **Malleable Futures with Ingrid Raphaël**

**“Time is time has time honors, time takes”**

**Two minutes to fill out our identifications of time, report back to the group**

**Time is:**

**Time is:**

**Time is:**

**Time is:**

**Time is:**

**Time is:**

**Time Has**

**Time Honors**

**Time Takes**

**Time Gives**

**Time Runs**

**Time Moves**

**Like air time is expansive and a resource:**

**Space is a fourth dimension, something that we move through**

**When we embody time, who do we become?**

**Right now, time often works against us, and we rarely embody time.**

**In malleable futures  
we'll move with  
Move through and  
be with time.**

**Time is synonymous with memory- we're constantly engaging with time in ways that for us, and with us**

**The distinction between the past and present founders on the interminable grief engendered by slavery and its aftermath.**

**What, aside from grief, have we filled our past and present with?  
Joy, technology,**

**Time expands in and out, is multidimensional, reciprocal, abundance, is the self extended.**

**Images from Tony Cokes- Black Celebration**

**“Black Celebration: A Rebellion Against the Commodity”**

**Experience informs our relationship with time; we're an embodiment of time.**

**Present is an ever fleeting and unquantifiable; untenable**

**Time is the erosion of Earth- time is witnessing changes to the landscape**

**Time can be chaotic and organic, but also streamlined and structured**

**Time is a moving body in practice- dance combines presence/attending future**

**How we learn to move embodies time**

**Time is a transformation of elements, it answers to its own devices, and we try to emulate time.**

**Earthly beings and our knowledge are testaments to time itself**

**Black Hair Time**

**Braiding & Weaving are**

**“A document is really an evolving ongoing braid”**

**Time slows, shifts**

**It’s difficult to braid your own hair- it’s difficult to do on our own**

**Communal sense of time also means**

Conversation with participants:

Seashells, Sound & Music

**Acts of Freezing Time:**

Photography, Writing, Transcribing, Storytelling, recording, etc.

Documentation can be a powerful tool for reclaiming power

Dance annotations- markers for what time is visualized as  
(images from Arena)

**Exploring Units of Time Vs. Markers of Time**

**Creating new time:**

What are your points of measure in your day to day that can be measures of time?

In what ways do you make/create time?

As the architect of your world, what is time measured by?

## **Land, Entangled Space, and Time with Camae Ayewa**

Beginning with stream of consciousness writing

**The anthropology of consciousness:**

**Our senses as we can capture them are limited.**

**Didn't know exactly what I was doing, wold go into spaces-  
Never wanted to have music I was putting upon- the music I love takes me  
somewhere, brings me to a place-want to create my own music.**

**Music is more popular internationally, so performances takes Camae to  
Japan, Budapest, Poland, etc. -finding affinity with people in struggle  
Conversations around housing futures- taking more agency of what we want  
our neighborhoods to look like - translated transnationally  
Because of politics, capitalism, we stopped talking to one another about  
what's been going on in the states**

**When you travel to a place, it's you job to learn what's going on  
Audiences and community members come to tell me what's really happening**

**Camae takes all of these stories and puts all of it into the music - Free Jazz  
Poetry**

**Anthropology of consciousness is saying: you will know about this place- the  
information is stored, is shared, is available.**

**BQF: Sound is a quantum event; breaking down all the layers of things that  
have been buried.**

**"I don't have an art practice, I have a life"**

**Why are you feeding the community? Because the community fed me.**

**-Mahalia Jackson**

Ten minutes to be in meditation moving around the space; take it in, think about  
who's been there and why, why do we keep returning there?

Walking Meditation: group discussion- what did you notice about the space,  
what names come up.

**If we'd truly had an age of Enlightenment, our reality would have stretched  
somewhere we are not now**

The motto of this university is the living spirit, established in 1937.  
Speculation is important, especially as we've been cut off from our histories or written out of the mainstream future.

"To The Living Spirit" - what does that mean?

Students and Faculty of Columbia University - Sanctuary for scholars escaping Nazi Germany- to come and hold positions and continue their practice, even as they were escaping something grotesque

When the University of Hiedlberg was attacked, this was on the building.

The people in Nazi Germany morally threatened would always have a home in this country.

WEB DuBois taught here for one year- the first AF AM studies class taught in America (1948).

Thinking about a space which is a refuge, also acknowledging the kind of resources/access that make such a space possible, through plantation time.

What do you need to build \$300+M in endowment wealth?

How long does it take to accumulate that kind of wealth, and how?

How can we sharpen our sensitivity to reveal the truth about the places where we find ourselves?

Coming together, seeking community, exploring the vortexes that are always here.

How are the frameworks we've imposed on the natural world in dialogue with natural timelines and frameworks?

Miraculous and Horrific things are happening to us, and we can't explain or make sense of them in a linear timeframe...the unknown is also its own character

Yes, we are thankful, we are giving to this space,  
"Anytime we gather, everyone is thankful"

Reading and performance

## **Closing/Debrief Protocols, Commitments, next steps**

### **Question: What thoughts/feelings can be taken away from this experience?**

- Made them feel differently about the past. Ancestors had birthdays without specific dates which created appreciation of the expansiveness of time in the past
- Trusting their ability, following, listening to it, and mapping it out.

### **Question: What is sitting or lingering with you? What are you planning to return to?**

- How to tap into rhythms & polyrhythms. How do we change together?
- These conversations have felt like fuel. How do I start embodying this knowledge & actively choosing to remember? How do I not block my blessings by staying in times that are meant for me?
- "Trauma makes us forget"
- I'm thinking about how this relates to the captive maternal. How do we give time back to our mothers, grandmothers, and foremothers? How do we extract ourselves from the cycle of extraction of Black women's labor?

### **Question: How can we each participate in shifting/ dismantling the existing protocols of time?**

- Shifting our relationships to place/land. Acknowledging extractive relationship to food and righting the relationship with the land
- How do we get our basic needs met outside of capitalism? Archiving is important to retrieving histories of how that's already been done [Collective Purge book]
  - Podcast: Cooperative Journal
- Origin stories & how time isn't linear. What does it mean to be an Igbo father of Biafra? Trying to position continental African people in terms of the Transatlantic Slave Trade
  - Ibo landing

### **Question: What kind of resources/support is needed to realize these ideas?**

- Getting lawyers and housing advocates to support vulnerable youth in the adoption system (detroit)
- (Baltimore) we need space. There's a housing crisis & when we do get space, it gets taken away. Having nowhere to go creates more violence
- Living space for artists
- Innovation labs/multi dimensional venues
- Time/Race/Gender traitors who leverage their resources & make themselves invisible
- Protection to expand our ability to time jump



- And app to show different outcomes of mentor/mentee relationships, how to predict/navigate different choices

### **Wishing temporal abundance & Black spatial agency**

# Prime Meridian Unconference

Prime Meridian Unconference Notes and Questions. Please feel free to leave your name/website or remain anonymous!

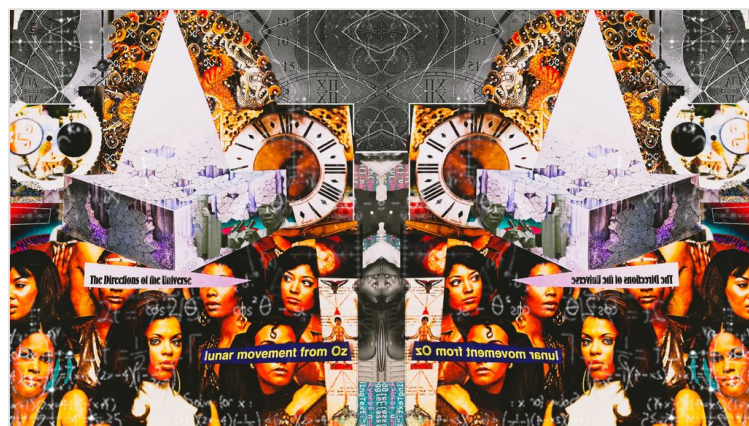
QUANTUM FUTURISM APR 03, 2022 01:23AM

## [Saturday] - Lightwave Track

QUANTUM FUTURISM APR 16, 2022 05:54AM

### Notes, Thoughts, References, Questions

Please share notes, questions, thoughts and comments for presentations on the Lightwave Track at the Unconference. What is sticking with you? What are some quotes you want to highlight and uplift? Resources you want to share? Please feel free to leave your name/website or remain anonymous!



temporal logics and time hacking technology -SJ — ANONYMOUS

ANONYMOUS APR 16, 2022 06:18PM

How can sound and light travel through the atmosphere and clouds to repair the effects of global warming.

Can there be something like a "Rain Dance", "Planet Healing Symphonic Composition and Lightshows" created to harmonize the atmosphere through the use of traveling light and traveling sound created by artists?

The presentation was very exciting. I missed some of it to take a business phone call.

Brilliant Unconference.

ANONYMOUS APR 16, 2022 07:24PM

## Our ancestors knew how the hegemony works.

### Blackdom in the Borderlands

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE AFRO-FRONTIER (1903-1929)

BY DR. TIMOTHY E. NELSON, HISTORIAN AND ARTIST

#### Editor's Preface

With widespread reporting on racial disparity in the United States in 2020 has come a renewed interest in a New Mexico site not often discussed: Blackdom, an all-Black settlement in the southeastern corner of the state, founded in 1903 and occupied until the 1920s.

Historically, conversations about Black people project the intentions of others and obscure deep analysis of Black folks. As a society in the post-Obama era, we must ask new questions about Black people and reframe histories we thought we knew. The summer of 2020 resembled the summer of 1919, a time referred to as Red Summer—a pandemic was raging, Russia was in the news, and violence against Black bodies was both state-sponsored and vigilante-inspired. One might argue that history repeated itself.

As the state of New Mexico enters its second century and grapples with the histories that came before, this essay about Blackdom, New Mexico, provides a model: as modern historians do not subscribe to the idea

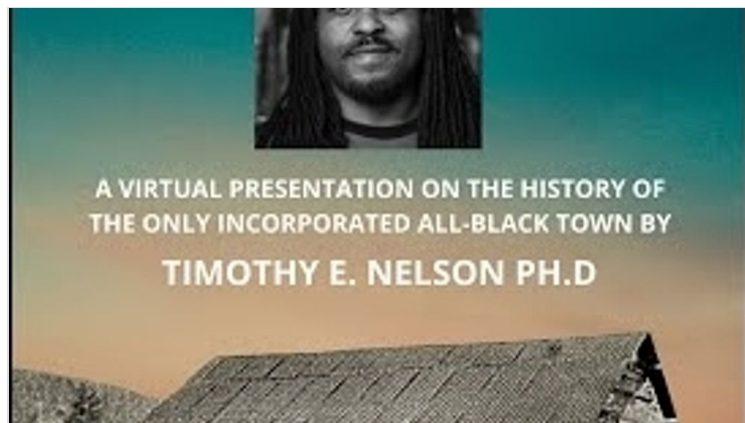
#### 36-43 Blackdom proof 1

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PADLET DRIVE

ANONYMOUS APR 16, 2022 07:26PM

## Recent Presentation with Dr. Nelson. Several descendants were present. 150+ attendees.



#### Blackdom, New Mexico

by Santa Fe Public Library

YOUTUBE

## Inequitable ability to participate in the conference today across space and time due to the continued impact of neo-colonial rule in west Africa

I am here in Cape Coast, Ghana, four hours ahead of Eastern Standard Time in America which is taking into account daylight savings time. By far, the biggest expense here is DATA which you cannot get in unlimited amounts with a monthly payment. It is pre-paid. Even with that, the networks can't handle traffic sufficiently. I have been constantly met with buffering and internet disconnection through the entire first day. I believe I was able to listen to about 15%, and I attended the full day. Please post clear instructions explaining how to access the recordings from Friday and Saturday.

I hope that in the future you think about communities that don't have the privilege of resources such as high speed connectivity and unlimited quantities of data. It would have helped greatly to have the OPTION of "voice only" to lower the band width required to attend. Even a call in number such as Zoom offers as that is a more stable connection and the cost is within my control to manage. Thanks

*Great note, I appreciate this feedback, and it's something for all to consider when hosting virtual events. — ANONYMOUS*

## Day 1 Conference Notes

Opening Plenary: Rasheedah Phillips

“[Here to] Discuss alternative ways of coordinating our lives” Intro MC (Karin K.)  
2 conversation tracks  
Proton track-Ideas travel: Back and forth  
Light wave track

Rasheedah Phillips

“This is an experiment” ½ hour before and after each workshop

Agreements

-expect non resolution

(No answer to time)

-speak you truth

-space priority of indigenous/ all isms and black and women and diff bales, etc, lgbtqia

-respect others temporality and our own/ non traditional space/ walk in and out as needed / take breaks

Dr. Andrea Harris will be playing a video (Not in program)

Camae Ayewa reads,

“We must remember our African ancestors who left so much richness in the soil...the blood sweat and tears that our ancestors gave to the land...the unjust laws that continue to...dehumanize our lives. We will worship. We will dance...today and tomorrow.”

Dr. Danielle Purifoy, Dead Line?: On slowing down in Black “spacetime”

“Plantation is an ongoing locust of violence and death.” Katherine McKendrix? (Clarify name)

“The talk about...how we lived and survived as Black folks, how the White folks treated us.” (Bell Hooks)

“Oh the feeling of safety, of arrival...” A paradox that there is safety “between the home place and the white space” (who's voice?)

Catherine Coleman Flowers, Center for Rural Enterprise and Environmental Justice

-“Literal conversion” of White space into Black space  
Black families could purchase former slave plantations

“ Flowers demonstrates nonlinearity of Black space time” They returned to a space of disorientation and displacement to create home on their own terms, in their own time “setting a firm boundary around the home space”

Dead\* line: the latest time by which something can be completed / (Archaic/ historical definition) A space of enclosure, a prison. If prisoners crossed that boundary, they could be shot.

Speakers used Tamina, Tx as space for study, it's shrinking by way of White power. Defining this place as a dead \*line, space of disconnection. “Established infrastructures of care, community/ institution building since 1836” The citizens there have created a safe space boundary around the town even without certain basic necessities like well maintained water ways, etc.  
“A space for eternity, where they die, where they are buried, where their legacies continue”

\*\*\*\*\*Princeville, NC subject to constant catastrophic flooding, first incorporated Black municipality in the US  
Started as plantation state and over taken by Union army.  
Compromise after war: Planters sold land to Turner Prince originally named “Freedom Hill”  
Flooded at least 8times wholly since conception but here (we, Black folks) stay and build and rebuild.  
Deadline is the boundary of the flood plane. The state tries to take land after every flooding but the citizens refuse to relinquish it.

Pullman, Michigan where speaker's family (matriarchs) set a deadline for their family who migrated from Memphis to Detroit.  
“They served on plantation time for most of their lives... but wanted to set a different standard of time for us.” They did this by

moving from Detroit to Pullman and began to “teach us to develop relationship to land without being on plantation time.”

Asia Dorsey, Bending SpaceTime with Botanicals

–“Singing is a technology that gives us access to being and performing in a new space”

–“physically a social technology to create a group field, coherence...plants help us to do this”

Focusing on lemon balm and how it can change time  
Experimental space

“The nature of time is rooted in our body...time cannot exist without us as observer...our physical bodies are in relation to all bodies around us including those of plants”

“Honor the sacred ‘no’ ”

When we honor the “sacred no” we enrich others’ experiences as well as our own

We can choose to be observer and opt out of participation but we are still participant by default

“Obliterate colonial time” when we share with one another

“The perceived time is the actual time”

“Diversity of time springs out as we experience the byproduct of relationship”

“Connection is an accelerator”

“To emphasize relationship, I don’t mix herbs together...I want to know each herb as a person...this is what the people’s medicine is all about...tell the plant’s story and our story at the same time.”  
Asia D.

Word of mouth and we rely on each other to learn plants

Asia D. partners w/ urban farms to grow plant medicine (lemon balm, elderberry, mullein, etc)

Cherokee name for Lemon Balm (Wa du li si)  
“No decolonization, I cannot extract the white from my bloodlines”  
lemon balm is a European plant but Cherokee people named it to work with it. The weeds travel to undue to harm that the colonizers cause (paraphrasing of Asia D.)

“Plants have a specific relation to space/time...they use space and time to be of service and access us...they make themselves available.” “Can access the multiplicity of timelines to be in a multiplicity of places.”

[Asia shared an anecdote about a friend whose environment she analyzed and found a “pregnancy garden” of plants. She informed her friend of this, they laughed it off and friend became pregnant 3 weeks later but had a troubled pregnancy and didn’t use the plant medicine. The plants manifested there to help but unfortunately were not used for their purpose.]

“Reading the lawn can save lives.” Asia D.

“The temporal nature of people is determined by their anxiety.”  
Simon R./ Pierre Alexander

“People who experience anxiety can often show up in spaces and be perceived as narcissists because they are always in their head, thinking about themselves.”

“Plants are a chart, a cartography of how the body works” Asia D

“Lemon balm pushes out the time horizon and enables the flow state”

Flow: being so happily inside an activity that time contracts and expands (paraphrase)

City push us towards standardized time but nature is a place that we can go to deviate from this (paraphrase)

“The present is a relationship to the herb itself”

V. Mitch McEwen, Cloud Time

”discuss possibility of shifting from coordinate space to coordinate temperature”

“I feel cloudy to myself”

Math of cloud is the science of individuation “blackness is a universal machine”

Cloud science is a science of collectivity  
“Population of individuals are all apart of this cycle of water” “each individual cloud is chaotic but the best way to describe it is to describe their behavior collectively”

Audio clip where a Black man discusses multilayers of time as he is experiencing it

Ujiji Williams, Occupying Vacancy: Looking at Detroit's Grassroot Activation of Vacant Land and Structures  
Jima Studio from Ujima (collective work and responsibility)

What does it mean for Detroit to reclaim land that has been stolen?

"There is a tale of two Detroits. 1 that is affluent. 1 that is white. Middle place is Black excellence/affluence but the other Detroit... 2 blocks from my house...seems sucked dry."

See Gil Scott-Heron, 1977 from "We almost lost Detroit"

What does Detroit look like in the future?

"Space is the Place" Sun RA says, Black folks aren't real, we're a myth because we aren't acknowledged by the law.

"Working definition of Black space is a place where the construct of racialized oppression is not existent."

Speaker works to reimagine demoralized and desolate spaces in Detroit. Serves to fill the space in a way that is helpful to the specific community and includes spaces for play and other necessities that are not currently present there in the physical realm.

Speaker looks upon a space and asks, "How can this become an inviting space?"

"A grid is efficiency and living any other way is not." but Black folks come from ciphers like an opposite to this (paraphrase)

Black space happens in its own speed and time. "Doesn't rely on the normative structure of efficiency."

"Even though they are vacant, they have always been vacant."

"A lot of their vision is a reflection of their memory" "a lot of their memory is a reflection of their vision"

Andrea Robert's  
Prentice's Joy (Movie)

Modern-day tour of rent houses for black travelers 1930s-60s where Black folks could safely lodge and travel during prominent Jim Crow Era. Interview with Black man who facilitates tours and maintains this property (perhaps owns it?)

Kendra Krueger, Timecasting with Entropy & Lasers

"Indigenous ways of knowing are from these natural patterns that exist."

"We live in a very fractal universe..."

"Intuitive technology [is] the original pattern"

"Any technology is a way of moving, transforming matter"

"Energy and matter can be transferred back and forth"

"A pattern is a replicated memory transported through time."

- patterns
- physics
- archetypes
- thermodynamics

"Patterns in nature exist as archetypes and characters and we can utilize them"

Can we explain and explore the internal and external world together? Science and nature and art, etc (multidisciplinary)

Branch sys distribute resources from center in out. Fragility in the sys when branches are cut, because sources can no longer leave the center, system becomes decentralized

Different structures necessitate different structures

"So much breaks down into order v disorder"

"Intoxicated by the untamable...always wanted to be messy" entropy

"Me and my entropy" "recast my identity in the science of entropy"

"Entropy is the flow of nature to create new options..."

Boltzman's Constant is a fundamental constant in nature.

"Omega represents multiplicity. How many constants can exist in a situation? Only one direction that mixture, that entropy goes. Cannot return to what it was before. We perceive time through change."

"It's dangerous in the unknown...it's undifferentiated...so much you can lose your mind on."

"Gotta get solid on what's your fundamental frequency then you can open up your boundaries"

Change is both linear and nonlinear steady and instantaneous (paraphrased)

“How much work do we have to do and how much energy do we need to make it happen?”

“Slowing time changes our relationship to power” Asia D.

Reductionism “if we can break it down into smaller pieces then we can understand it and control it”

“Must go into a process of disconnection to chose whether we want to connect or not”

Stochastic Resonance?

Systems are rituals

Systems are patterns stacked atop one another

We created a lazor by way of sound by starting with a Bassline and introducing different elements or both order and chaos over time

“Achieved lazor focus moment when we vibrated at the same frequency”



## Add New Protocols and Rituals of Time here:

ANONYMOUS APR 15, 2022 11:41PM

### Renewed Temporalities

Maybe we can work with Time and silence to reorganize our worlds in a way offering renewed temporalities conceptually, materially, metaphorically, spatially to destabilize normative time.  
- The BlkRobot Project

ANONYMOUS APR 15, 2022 11:42PM

### Displacing "normative" time

The secret is the timing of an attack that *unsettles* colonial time, market time, linear time without offering renewed conditions for their weapons, forever.

*What is time when I am here and I was here before and will be elsewhere as I was before - am I time or was that me before? Am I what I was before or am I here now? Rob Snikkar — ANONYMOUS*

*Is a protocol a path or a trap? Do we need a path so we can stray from it - if we follow a path we will find where it leads us - if we stray we can examine the shape of that path and see where it can never lead — ANONYMOUS*

*what is time to a baby? — ANONYMOUS*

*This is true, so is their weapon the ignorance of a healthy time protocol? — ANONYMOUS*

*what other cultures can inform time protocols? - did Mayans have 4 dimensions of time? and our Indigenous peoples on Turtle Island (and in the land of the Condor) have insights and approaches — ANONYMOUS*

## [Saturday] Day 1 - Photon Track

QUANTUM FUTURISM APR 16, 2022 05:53AM

### Notes, Thoughts, References, Questions

Please share notes, questions, thoughts and comments for presentations on the Photon Track at the Unconference. What is sticking with you? What are some quotes you want to highlight or resources you want to share? Please feel free to leave your name/website or remain anonymous!



Answers to these questions will provide proper context...how is time expressed when the culture that utilizes it is based on abundance and alignment with nature? — ANONYMOUS

I am wary of some meanings of the word protocol - TCIP is the packet switching protocol for the internet - it confines packets to restrictions yet allows packets to travel different paths to a pre-determined destination - is that about freedom or a more efficient way to deliver control? Indigenous protocols for listening, speaking, teaching, healing...seem to set broad bases of responsibility to others and the mother earth rather than rights of individuals (and the legal basis for property) - do we seek protocols that are open - even open-source - that ensure these responsibilities to others (& mothers)? Rob Snikkar — ANONYMOUS

ANONYMOUS APR 15, 2022 11:49PM

## Wade in the Water as a Time Portal

I really liked what Rasheedah Phillips said about Harriet Tubman opening up portals with/by wading in the water. It would be really cool to explore this more. If anyone is interested, maybe we could start off by generating questions? For example, where could we open up these time portals? Can it be in-person and on-online, this protocol or ritual? Where or who might these portals lead to? Is wading in the water an ancestral, temporal technology? What are other ways Black/African/Afro Diasporic peoples waded in the water? Also interested in how songs, sound, voice and music could be connected to this. It's only Day 1!!! - Simone Johnson

Rituals for Osun and Yemeja and Olokun all involve wading in water. — ANONYMOUS

^^^ <3 <3 <3, yesss - SJ — ANONYMOUS

Additionally, the ritual of "Omi tutu" where one dips their hand in a bowl of cool water and places some droplets on their head is a sort of facsimile for wading in water. — ANONYMOUS

I love that. This is Simone again. I guess we are supposed to be anonymous, but I like sharing my name! Anonymity is fine also! I learned this from an elder farmer in Brooklyn, but didn't know it is called Omi tutu, unless there is probably many different names. I was thinking about that, wading in the water rituals with the body and at home. I'm interested though in old-new wading in the water spacetime technologies. Can we create 'new' ones? I guess I'm interested in people's questions around Wading in the Water as opening time portals. Thank you for sharing this!! — ANONYMOUS

Hi Simone, I think you have to be a member of padlet to add your name officially to the post, but please feel free to identify yourself on the post or info or remain anonymous! Whatever you are comfortable with! Thanks so much for your thoughts and contributions, all! - rasheedah — QUANTUM FUTURISM

Old rhythms in music, for example, Afro-Cuban music, can change the perception of time through precise rhythms that are out of time - we also call it the groove in slang here. It's a similar experience and perception of time when you experience a car accident, for example - your perception of time changes. The seconds are extremely long and go by forever, and each second remains in the memory as a narrative. It is a strong connection with the Cosmos that links the two experiences. Dorothee Elisa Baumann — ANONYMOUS

Thank you for this super Un-presentation and for sharing your knowledge with us - I feel honored to be part of this. You asked us about our own experiences: Whenever I am connected spiritually through my heart I perceive love and humanity as a whole in this moment - no racial capitalism and differences and identity politics - this is what I hope deeply for the future - we get together as humanity knowing we have all the same red blood within us and share mother earth. Dorothee Elisa Baumann — ANONYMOUS

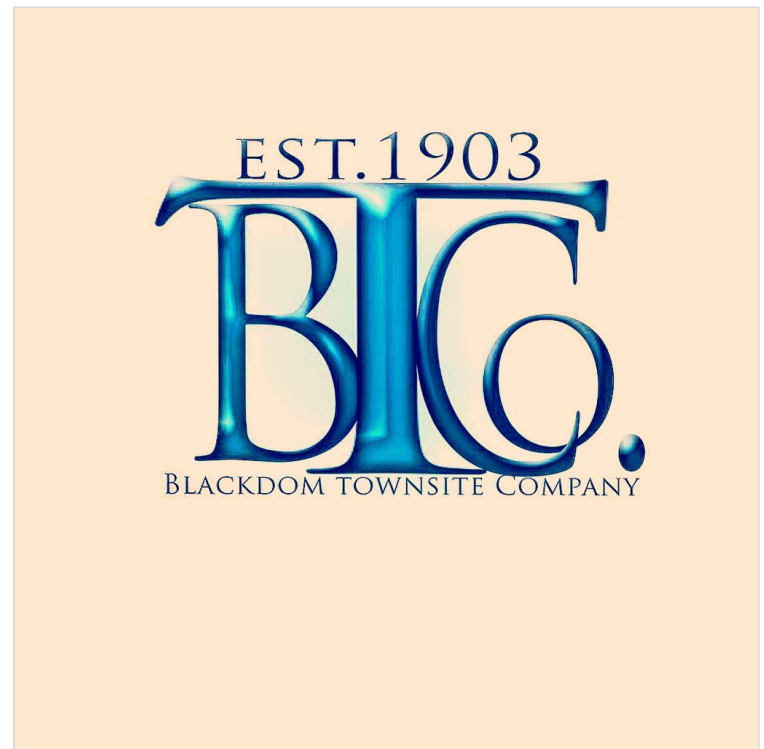
Hi @rasheedah! Oh I see, thank you for letting me know :) I'll sign up on padlet! With gratitude, Simone — ANONYMOUS

Thank you Dorothee for sharing your thoughts! I will listen to some Afro-Cuban music tonight! I feel like water and timespace knowledge, practices-skills, technologies can be a guide in helping us toward many different futures, including the one you described. I think it's really important to find or locate what you're sharing (love, shared humanity etc) in the past. To find those experiences and narratives that may not get as much attention or recognition. Spacetime blessings to everyone! - SJ — ANONYMOUS

## [Sunday] - Lightwave Track

ANONYMOUS APR 17, 2022 03:52PM

Thank you for this Black Space.



## [Sunday] - Photon Track

SOYEONG PARK APR 17, 2022 07:18PM

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