

ABSTRACT

INNA DI DANCEHALL DIS/PLACE: SOCIO-CULTURAL POLITICS OF IDENTITY IN JAMAICA

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This thesis explores and explicates the role of dancehall culture in Jamaica. It begins with a brief discussion around the historical moment that sets the stage for the evolution of dancehall music culture, followed by an overview of the development of dancehall music and culture.

Based on their primacy in dancehall culture, this work focuses on the concepts of sexuality and violence and explores these presentations and representations in an attempt to understand the meanings within these discourses. Patriarchy as an underpinning of gender relations in dancehall culture, together with ideas of feminine liberation and masculism are utilised in this explication. Socio-cultural politics at the micro level and the role of ordinary people in re-creating their identities in a marginalized existence is an important part of this study.

Keywords: Donna Patricia Hope; Popular Culture; Reggae; Dancehall Culture; Gender; Violence; Sexuality; Homophobia; Masculinity; Identity