

Black Deaf Studies Matters: A Defining Moment

Co-Editor's Message

Black Deaf Studies Symposium Proceedings

Rezenet Moges-Riedel

California State University, www.csulb.edu
rezenet.moges-riedel@csulb.edu

Abstract

The Co-Editors' message in the proceedings highlights the historical significance of the Black Deaf Studies Symposium, emphasizing its role in forging an academic and cultural space for Black Deaf communities. Through 13 selected papers, the proceedings showcase groundbreaking research and critical discourse, setting a new standard for inclusivity and scholarship in both Deaf and Black Studies.

Keywords

Black Deaf Studies, Inclusivity, Black scholarship, Cultural space, Deaf

Presentation Transcript

Watching the Black Deaf Studies Symposium was a long-time dream coming true for many of us. The event gave us our own space to see and listen to so many Black signing scholars and about their research and personal success. Not only as an academic space, it was also a space for us to reunite, laugh, praise, dance, grieve and bawl. Instead of letting this phenomenally historical event be an ephemeral experience or mere memories for only the people in attendance, DSDJ and the publication. We cautiously contemplated and reflected in-depth about the importance of this publication as it sets the tone for future publications and symposiums. We wanted to honor solid research and academic work while not centering White male heteronormative research evaluation methods. In order to do that, we narrowed from 17 presentations and 4 panel discussions during the symposium to 13 contributing papers, based on four objectives explained below.

Firstly, the mission of the Black Deaf Studies symposium was to question and indicate the values of the discipline of the scholarship off/for/by Black Deaf people. Their contributions would provide us some answers to, “*Why Black Deaf Studies Matters?*” a critical question finding an academic space for our Black Deaf signing communities. Second, each contributing paper would offer us their original scholarship or critique of

the referred scholarship. Third, since we argued for an academic space for Black Deaf Studies, the selected works offer some additional new perspectives or thoughts and help to expand our thinking about Black Deaf Studies. Finally, we sought work that demonstrated how Black Deaf Studies contributes to our thinking about Deaf Studies and Black Studies.

In the end, we believe each work exemplified here has aligned with the Black Deaf Studies Symposium's values, spirit, and academic nature. We trust that our readers/viewers will benefit from each one of their works honoring and celebrating our Black Deaf signing communities.

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