

"Harlemworld: Doing Race and Class in Contemporary America"

Notes from class discussion 10-26-07

1. What does "Harlemworld" mean? Pay special attention to pp. 6-10, which is quite dense.

Stole term from pop culture & music. Shows "extra-special significance of Harlem" – rep. of Harlem in Af-Am culture in U.S., Jamaica, – like *communitas* – transcends geographic boundaries. Sense of shared culture. "Symbolic center for African American culture" p. 9

In Jamaica people wanted to talk with him and identified with him because he was from Harlem.

Black diaspora – dislocation. A people scattered across the world without a homeland.

Harlem Renaissance – 1920s, 1930s – Center for jazz music, art, theater, poetry, intellectual life in general.

Why does he use this concept (Harlemworld) rather than speaking simply of "Harlem?"

Harlemworld is more than the geographic location itself. Harlem is the "grid" –the geographic space.

"over-determined"

All NY has an ever-present history...
canonized, politicized, and self-conscious, recognized nature of that [modern history]

canonized: "official" history

2. What does he mean by "doing"? (hint: race as performance or performative)