

The Frederic C. Wood Lecture Series

# Between Blessings & Light Beams: Surfing the Sacred/Secular Divide in Black Popular Music

Wednesday  
October 5, 2016  
5:30pm  
Taylor 203



**Josef Sorett**

This talk will explore the influences and trajectories of religion in recent black music across a range of genres, including gospel, hip hop, and praise and worship music, to invite a discussion about religion, race and media in the contemporary moment.

is an *Associate Professor in the Religion Department and the Institute for Research in African-American Studies at Columbia University*, where he also directs the Center on African-American Religion, Sexual Politics and Social Justice (CARSS). As an interdisciplinary scholar of religion and race in the Americas, Josef employs primarily historical and literary approaches to the study of religion in black communities and cultures in the United States. His first book, *Spirit in the Dark: A Religious History of Racial Aesthetics* (Oxford University Press, 2016) illuminates how religion has figured in debates about black art and culture across the 20th century. Josef's second book – *The Holy Holy Black: The Ironies of an African American Secular* – is forthcoming, also with Oxford UP. Additionally, Josef is editing an anthology tentatively titled *The Sexual Politics of Black Churches*.

Sponsored by The Department of Religion



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