



Black women are Superheroes and wear 'digital capes' Too

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The Art of Blogging & Podcasting

- The evolution of blogging has been one of the foremost factors in re-conceptualizing how individuals can participate in publishing information on the Internet..
- Blogging has shifted from being considered an unconventional activity to mainstream media activity.
- Podcasts have also become a popular medium for accessing and assimilating audio and video content, via a subscription format, about news, music, and entertainment.
- Unlike print media (i.e. magazines and newspapers) or traditional visual media (i.e. television and film) blogging and podcasts becomes a digital form of storytelling that can be edited and changed quickly, and can offer reader (and consumers) the ability to interact and become part of the story that read or listen to

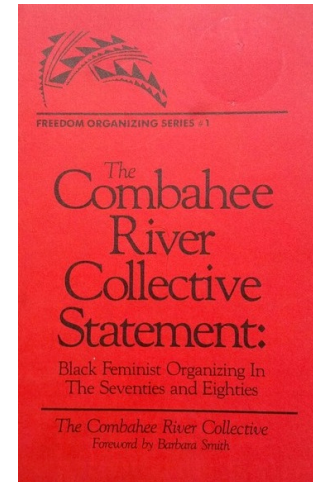
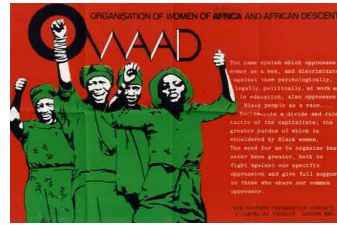


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Questions to consider

- **With the explosion of online Black women ‘nerd’ networks. I seek to examine this phenomenon through the following research questions:**
 - *What is the importance of Black female fan communities and their representation within new media (i.e. blogs, podcasts, social media platforms)?*
 - *How do Black women use these new media methods to creatively give voice to the Black female within popular culture, create empowering digital communities, and critique popular media culture?*
 - *In what ways do Black women construct new methods of re-imagining blackness and womanhood, and curate black nerdism through these online platforms and networks?*



Trailblazers before the digital...

Digital storytelling voiced through Black women

Knowing the general impact of blogging and podcast is on the rise, it is important that we investigate specific sites that use these tools to promote their messages and narratives.

Portrayals of Blackness and Black womanhood are constantly being challenged, redefined, and creatively used through public voices whether it be in a public lecture or in a 60-minute podcast.

Collectively and separately the communities in question serve as online community diaries that impact popular culture by influencing the producers, while simultaneously contributing and reshaping the content.

Leading question: *are blog site and podcasts discussing race, gender, and pop culture, in a specific way online?*

Digital Storytelling



combines ORAL tradition of storytelling
with VISUAL and SOUND capabilities
of digital media

Carving a Lane but actively resisting

Rather than attempting to promote the assimilation of African Americans into the mainstream, bloggers and their readers use the blogs to build centripetally and reaffirm the right of people of African descent to produce art that speaks to and for them.

Examples of this include *Nerds of Prey*, *You Had Me At Black*, and *Cite Black Women*

Future Feminism

**BLACK
FUTURES
MATTER**

- Future feminism is a political project that interrogates the potential possibility of a character's power to morph in unimaginable ways to secure freedom and justice from opposing forces. It is in the gesture of performing that the future becomes present and the past is an essential foundational tool that propels resistance.
- Future feminist assert independence that disrupts norms and gendered expectations; thus, freely living outside of stereotypes by creating their own knowledge and visions of liberation. Largely occupying the space of the unreal, future feminist's orbit outside of marked boundaries, defined limits and suffocating standards in order to secure transformative agency.

Nerds of Prey

- Beginning in January 2016, Nerds of Prey embarked on a journey to actively bring Black female voices into a space that was predominately white and male
- Inserting Blackness and femaleness into nerd culture, while also analyzing and critiquing the space
- Covers popular culture topics ranging from television, film, anime, science-fiction
- Changing the mainstream pop culture and nerd narrative
- Declaring one's space



Nerds of Prey

Bi-weekly podcast that blends pop culture and academic theory

General themes of focus include representation, accessibility, visibility

Build and uplift together

Nerds of Prey as a podcast and collective exemplify what Nancy Fraser (1990) explains as counter-publics “that have contested the exclusionary norms of the bourgeois public, elaborating alternative styles of political behavior and alternative norms of public speech.”

You Had Me At Black!

- “Where Black millenials tell true-life stories”
- Tells stories through podcasts and live storytelling via the following formats: Apple Podcasts, Spotify, IGTV, Facebook, Twitter
- Reclaiming the Black narrative by passing you the mic
- Traveling space...”Kickbacks” (Chicago, LA, Houston, Oakland/Berkeley, DC, Miami)



**YOU HAD
ME  AT
BLACK**

You Had Me At Black!

The mis- and underrepresentation of Black men and women in mainstream media affects our lives down to the most minute interactions. We highlight parts of the black experience that aren't typically shown in the media- the innocent, carefree, heartbreaking, painful, victorious moments that make up our lives. We do so as a form of activism and liberation.

Stories educate, uplift, encourage, humor, frighten, humble, and connect us. They're how we've transferred history and information for thousands of years. By revealing shared experiences and celebrating differences, You Had Me at Black builds community and encourage fans to walk boldly in their own.

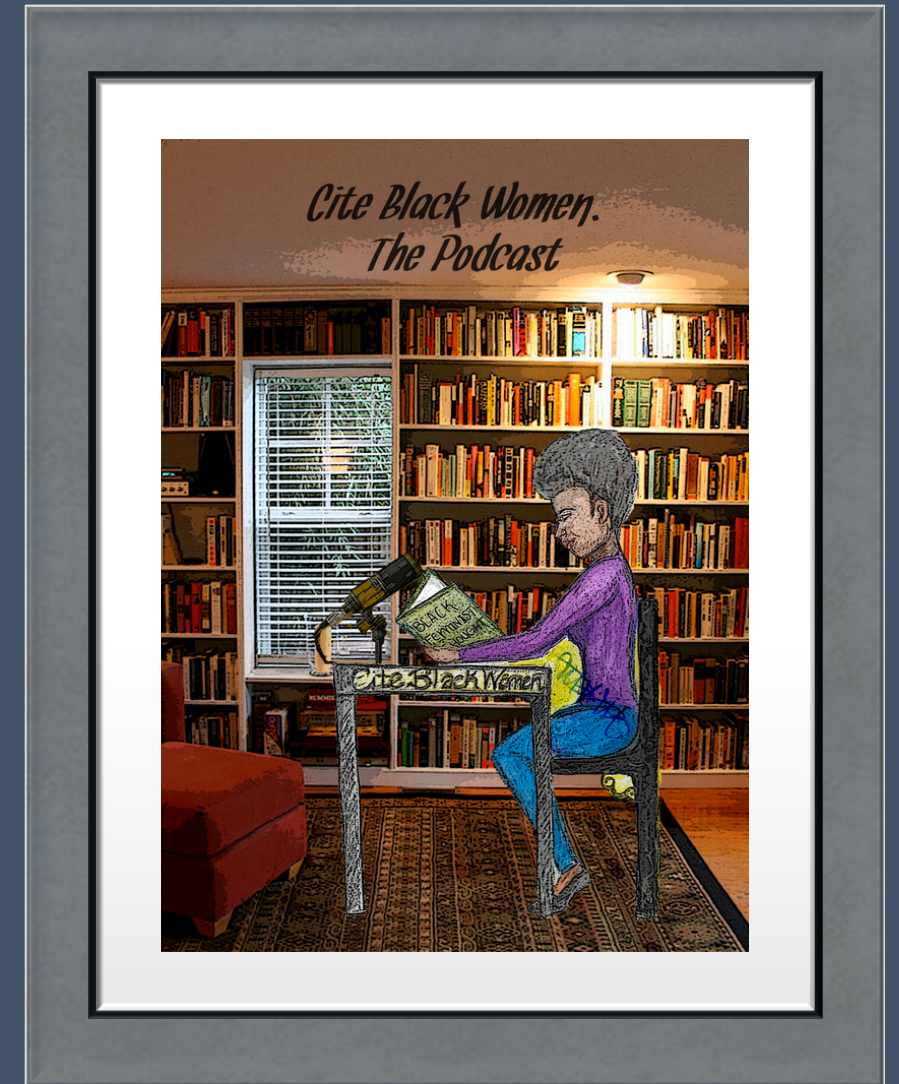
#CiteBlackWomen

- Created in November 2017 by Dr. Christen A. Smith,
- #CiteBlackWomen served as “a campaign to push people to engage in a radical praxis of citation that acknowledges and honors Black women’s transnational intellectual production.”
- “The idea was to motivate everyone, but particularly academics, to critically reflect on their everyday practices of citation and start to consciously question how they can incorporate black women into the CORE of their work. ”



Cite Black Women

- Bi-weekly program, which reflects on conversations about politics and praxis with a specific centering on Black women's ideas and intellectual contributions
- Inclusive and accessible space for those in and outside of academia
- Restructuring and decolonizing syllabi
- Discuss and actively engage with citational practices and politics





She wears the cape

- A space to speak freely and unapologetically
- Preservation of identity and culture
- Each of these spaces form enclaves to create “discursive strategies” and “gather oppositional resources” (Squires 2002).
- Blending of Black feminist and Afrofuturistic frameworks
- Bloggers, [podcasters] and their communities use satellite and enclave spaces to explore black representation in art and media, black feminism, and class consciousness. (Steele, 2018)
- Rather than operating at a deficit, African American¹ Internet users’ mastery of social networking and other online platforms continues to challenge oppressive systems (Brock 2016; Everett 2009).

Thank you!!

- All the blogs and podcasts past, present, and future
- On the Internets:
 - Instagram: LoveJones20
 - Twitter: GBreezy20
 - Co-host of #BlackComicsChat

