

TALK BACK

A Discussion on Post-Colonial Zimbabwe & Breakfast With Mugabe

DATE: Wednesday, January 15, 2014

TIME: Immediately Following tonight's performance

PANELISTS: Cast and Key Members of the Production

MODERATED BY: Dr. James Peterson Director of Africana Studies Associate Professor of English at Lehigh University & MSNBC Contributor



A graduate of Duke University and the University of Pennsylvania, he is also the founder of Hip Hop Scholars, Inc., an association of hip hop generational scholars dedicated to researching and developing the cultural and educational potential of hip hop, urban, and youth cultures.

Whether composing interdisciplinary curricula or discussing the latest topic du jour as an increasingly important media presence, Dr. James Peterson reveals an acute understanding of both our contemporary American culture and the highly-charged political climate with a progressive mindset.

An adamant proponent of educational reform, Dr. James Peterson is a strong advocate of integrating youth culture into classrooms as a way of transgressing the historically divergent borders between lived experiences and the formal educational system. He has trained teachers for the greater part of a decade, working with them to incorporate innovative methods for teaching students from all backgrounds and particularly from minority groups. Drawing from the four elements of hip hop culture -- djing, mc-ing/rapping, breakdancing/bboying, and graffiti art – Dr. James Peterson conceived "The Fifth Element of Hip Hop" where he argues that knowledge is an

additional element.

Regularly appearing on MSNBC's *The Ed Show* and *The Martin Bashir Show*, as well as *Al Jazeera English* and NPR with Marty Moss Coane, Dr. Peterson aptly utilizes his breadth of knowledge to tackle everything from politics to race relations, cultural debates about the greater social implication of entertainers like Beyonce, and the integration of non-traditional approaches to academics. He is also an official contributor for *The Daily Beast*, *TheGrio.com*, and MSNBC's official black online presence, *BET.com*, and he blogs for *The Huffington Post*, generally applying his journalistic and ethnographic skill sets toward groundbreaking academic inquiry.

Often working in collaboration with others, Dr. James Peterson has ushered in fresh perspectives on continually evolving debates on CNN, Fox News, CBS News, MSNBC, ABC News, ESPN, and HLN, and has been involved with *The Michael Eric Dyson Show*, Hot 97's *Street Soldiers*, *The Michael Baisden Show*, and the award-winning PBS documentary, *Beyond Beats and Rhymes*. Additionally, Dr. James Peterson regularly contributes to *The Fresh Outlook* on Ebru TV, a family-oriented, international cable network that features educational programs, sitcoms, and news segments.

For more information, visit www.youtube.com/drjamespeterson and www.twitter.com/DrJamesPeterson.