



*Griot (n): a member of a class of traveling poets, musicians, and storytellers who maintain a tradition of oral history in parts of West Africa*

## ---News from The Griot---

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### *Joy: Centering and Embracing the Fullness of Black Humanity*

The Griot Institute Spring 2024 Speaker Series demands a focus on Joy as an indispensable subject of academic and social inquiry. For good reason, we are usually more attuned to Black suffering than to Black Joy. A critical challenge raised by Language and Literature Professor Moradewun Adejunmobi (2022) is the question “What would studying African pleasures, beyond censorious judgment, look like?” If we extend this question to the global African Diaspora what might Black Joy look like beyond hypercritical assessment? What would happen if we were approving, sympathetic and admiring of Black Joy? As Tracey Michael Lewis-Giggetts (2022) contends, authorizing ourselves to examine and experience Black Joy is an act of resistance.

As scholars, we are trained to critically analyze, identify and disseminate social critiques of the essentialized and problematic. In relation to Black lives and cultures, the perniciousness of racism makes a focus on Joy feel frivolous against the physical, social and economic violence daily inflicted on Black people.

Admittedly, Joy is complicated. Just Black Joy is elusive and entangled with grief, antagonism and brutality. The hazardous precondition of Blackness – resulting from the paranoid perceived threat to Whiteness – leaves Black people in a perpetually perilous state of subjection and subjecthood robbed of Joy. Deprived of unfettered Joy, Black subjects and Black agents unapologetically make Joy through creative expressions of Black Humanity, which Arthur Jafa has referred to as Black Visual Intonation (2016) and Genevieve Hyacinthe has called Radical Virtuosity (2019).

Centering and embracing the fullness of Black humanity demands an intentional and multivalent examination of Black Joy. In an effort to explore Black Joy as more than frivolous and irresponsible, but rather as an essential subject, speakers will discuss – through the various disciplines and intellectual traditions – how one achieves and expresses Joy through Art, Fashion, Language, Philosophy, Social Media and more.

For more about the Griot Institute Spring Series (and other theme-related events), please go to [www.bucknell.edu/griot](http://www.bucknell.edu/griot)

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## ---General Information---

- 1) [Griot Institute Webpage](#)
  - 2) [The Griot Institute Intern Blog](#)
  - 2) [Race, Racism, and Resistance Resources](#)
  - 3) [Bucknell's Anti-Racism Resources](#)
  - 4) The Griot Institute offices are on the 2nd floor of Hildreth-Mirza. The hours are M-F, 8-2. Other hours are available by appointment.
  - 5) Director: [C. Cymone Fourshey](#); Program Manager: [Michelle Lauver](#)
  - 6) Email: [griot@bucknell.edu](mailto:griot@bucknell.edu); Phone: 570-577-2123; Follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#)
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## The Griot Intern Blog

Check the blog throughout the academic year for updates and reports on what is happening around campus in connection to Black lives and culture!



## Newest Posts:

[New Faculty and Staff Lunch: A Griot Welcome Event](#)

[Bucknell in the Caribbean 2024](#)

\*\*Griot Intern Contributors: Michaiah Augustine, Ninah Jackson, Holiness Kerandi, Ryleigh Roberts (editor), and Barbara Wankollie

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# CIVIL RIGHTS

*at Bucknell*



Please join Griot Institute intern Michaiah Augustine '23 (a December graduate) as she presents her exciting research for the Bucknell Civil Rights Project. The Civil Rights Project is an archive of Bucknell's records from the civil rights era and provides documentation of civil rights issues at Bucknell. The Griot Institute for the Study of Black Lives & Cultures works with several interns to build on past research projects and pursue new research endeavors. Details about other current projects, as well as a call for Black alumni participation, will also be shared. Everyone is welcome to attend.

*Saturday, September 23,*

*10:30 - 11:30 AM*

*Gallery Theatre, Elaine Langone  
Center*

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## Second Annual Student Appreciation Brunch

The Bucknell University Black Alumni Association invites Black students and their families to a brunch in their honor.

**Alumni:** Please register at [bit.ly/BUHFW23](https://bit.ly/BUHFW23)

**Students:** Please register at [bit.ly/BBAABrunch2023](https://bit.ly/BBAABrunch2023)

The Bucknell Black Alumni Association's  
second annual

# Student Appreciation Brunch

Saturday, Sept. 23  
11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.  
Walls Lounge

Register today: [bit.ly/BUHFW23](https://bit.ly/BUHFW23)

Sponsored by the Center for Alumni & Family  
Engagement, Bucknell University Alumni Association,  
The Griot Institute, BSU, BACSA and NSBE

## Who loves a good book?

In connection with the 23-24 Griot Institute theme, *Joy: Centering and Embracing the Fullness of Black Humanity*, we invite you to join one or both of the Griot Institute's fall semester book groups!

\*Please note that free books are given to the first 15 people to RSVP. After that, you are welcome to join us but will need to purchase your book.

\*\*As of today, the *Rest is Resistance* books have been claimed. *Black Joy* is still available.

[RSVP HERE!](#)



**GRIOT INSTITUTE FALL 2023 BOOK GROUPS**

**September 28, 12- 1:**  
*Rest is Resistance*  
by Tricia Hersey

**November 7, 12- 1:**  
*Black Joy* by  
Tracey Lewis-Giggetts

**JOIN US!**



The first 15 people to RSVP will receive a free book! Lunch provided.





Celebrating Banned Book Week!

# HOW TO GET AWAY WITH READING

## The Griot Institute's Book Swap Pop-Up

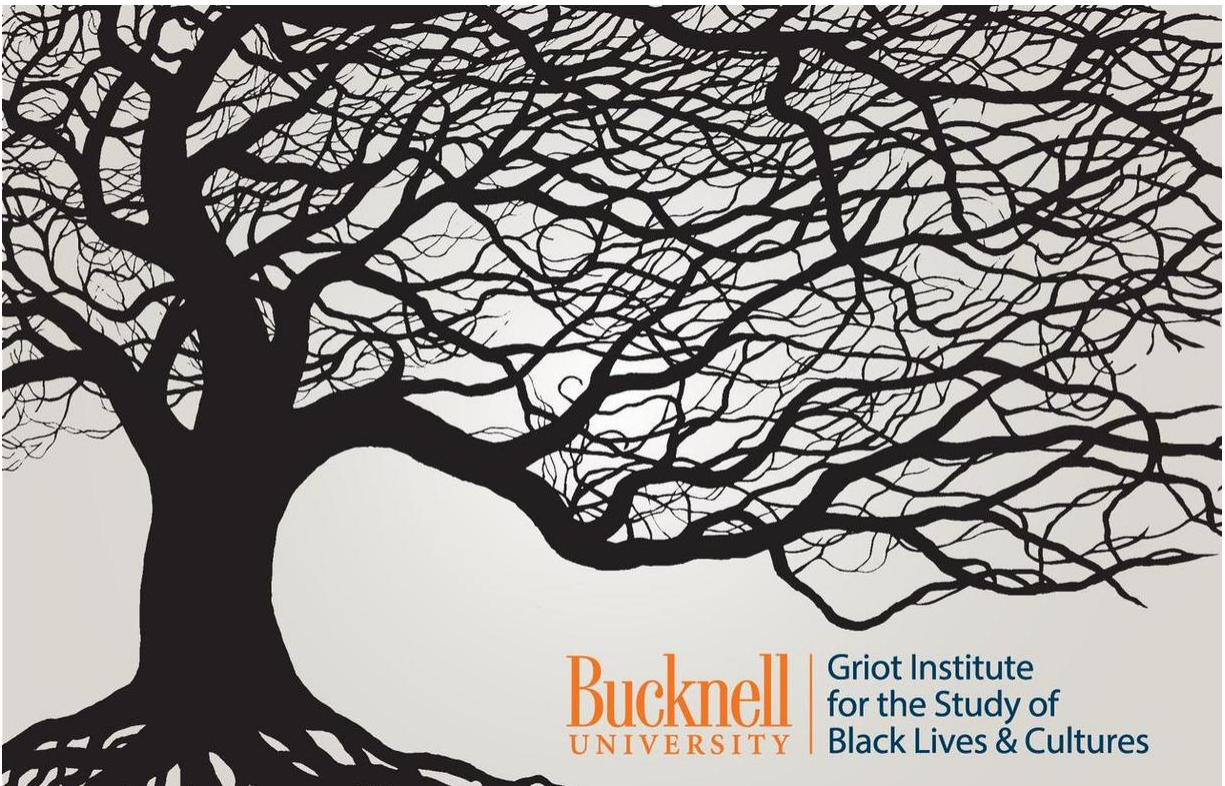
October 2nd | 11AM – 1PM

October 5th | 9AM – 11AM

ELC Mall – Table 1



“Bring A Book, Take A Book!”



**Bucknell**  
UNIVERSITY

Griot Institute  
for the Study of  
Black Lives & Cultures

**Bucknell University**

One Dent Drive | Lewisburg, PA | 17837

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