

Isaac Saney
Dalhousie University
Halifax, NS

The Challenge of Black Canadian Studies: Conceptualizing a Framework

One of the central issues that confronts the elaboration of a framework *for and of* Black Canadian studies is the imperative to ensure that it is not an attempt (conscious or unconscious) to replicate within a Canadian context African American Studies' templates or approaches. For Black Canadian Studies to be viable and useful, it must distinguish itself theoretically and politically from the dominant paradigm of exceptionalism that suffuses African American Studies. This necessitates an approach that not only locates and grounds the African Canadian experience firmly within the vagaries and vicissitudes of Canadian history, discourse and narrative but also within the global structures, dynamics and trajectories. This approach has been immanent and, in some cases, clearly articulated in the work of many. The challenge, now, is to begin to make this implicit framework explicit.