

Book Review

Derek Pardue. 2015. *Cape Verde, Let's Go: Creole Rappers and Citizenship in Portugal*. Chicago: University of Illinois Press. 192pp. ISBN 978-0-252-08117-0 (pbk). \$25.

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Derek Pardue's *Cape Verde, Let's Go: Creole Rappers and Citizenship in Portugal* provides a detailed ethnography of Cape Verdean hip hop in relation to the keywords *Creole* and *Kriolu*. Through fieldwork conducted in Cape Verde and Cape Verdean diasporic communities in Lisbon (Portugal), Pardue analyzes the social, cultural and historical components of Cape Verdean language and identity. He explores the use of *Kriolu* in Cape Verdean hip hop, where the central focus is upon rappers and their lyrics. In the text, Pardue uses the term *Creole* to refer to the social, cultural, historical and linguistic meanings conventionally associated with the term; *Kriolu* refers to Cape Verdean language and identity. The author explores these two related, complex concepts in relation to broader histories of encounter and the socio-politics of difference in Portugal.

The introduction outlines the central methodological practices and theoretical scholarship that inform this work. The concepts of citizenship, migration and interculturality in a postcolonial context are examined in relation to culture, politics and economics. The relationship between these concepts and *Kriolu* are discussed in five chapters, which explore *Kriolu* identity and language within the dynamic of Cape Verdean and Portuguese interrelations.

The presence of Africanity within Lisbon and Cape Verde's Lusophone relationship with Portugal have shaped the historical development of Creole citizenship. Pardue examines the concept of *Creole* in relation to colonial control of language, labor, space and education, suggesting that Portugal-Cape Verde relations impacted colonial notions of citizenship and, thus, have influenced the development of a Portuguese identity. Building upon his historical discussion of Creole citizenship, Pardue further explores post-1974 Creole identity politics following the end of Portuguese colonial rule under the Salazar regime. As emigration to Portugal from Lusophone countries increased,

Kriolu co-existed as a marker of black otherness and multiculturalism. Pardue analyzes the impact of the continuing ideology of Lusotropicalism on Portuguese identity formation.

Due to the scholarly focus on *Kriolu* rappers in Cape Verdean diasporic communities in Lisbon, Pardue explores the impact of spatial politics on Cape Verdean identity formation and rap. The author posits that identity formation, citizenship and music are informed by how musicians inhabit space. The notions of cultural recognition, belonging and rights are tethered to occupied space, which influences local *Kriolu* rap practices. Pardue examines several Cape Verdean neighborhoods on the periphery of Lisbon, documenting their communal struggles and rap musical expressions of *Kriolu*.

The book concludes with a synopsis of Pardue's thoughts concerning *Kriolu* and the European concept of interculturality. He analyzes the policies underpinning the concept of interculturality in relation to Lusotropicalism. The author discusses citizenship by contrasting the lives of several *Kriolu* rappers in Lisbon with the migratory policies of the European Union Commission and Portugal's state agencies. Pardue's "suggestive conclusions" re-visit different theoretical points outlined in the text.

Pardue's text would benefit from a deeper exploration of the music and DJs that support *Kriolu* lyrics and rappers. The scope of this research would naturally lend itself to more fully analyzing the *Kriolu* rap music samples, as a means of further illuminating the concepts of identity, citizenship and interculturality. The nature of the music samples might offer rich opportunities for a discourse on the motivating factors for certain music selections over others. *Cape Verde, Let's Go: Creole Rappers and Citizenship in Portugal* is a significant contribution to the body of ethnomusicological texts exploring Cape Verdean rap and culture. The focus on *Kriolu* rap in relation to language, identity and space provides an enriched perspective. The ambitious nature of this text provides the reader with a wealth of information regarding the complex nature of *Kriolu* rap.