

# American Folklore Studies: An Intellectual History

FOLKLORE / AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES / LITERATURE

"Centering the work of black and white folklorists and scholars of folklore in the national debates about the politics of racial representation at the close of the nineteenth century, Moody-Turner brilliantly constructs an alternative tradition of African American folklore studies and challenges conventional notions of what counts as theorizations of folklore and race. This book is a splendidly original and extremely well-written contribution to black folklore and literary studies. Moody-Turner combines mastery of the archive with an equally strong grasp of literary theory and critical race studies. This book was a delight to read, and I learned something new in every chapter. It is essential reading for anyone interested in the politics of representation, American intellectual history, and the history of folklore studies."

—HENRY LOUIS GATES, JR., Harvard University

"*Black Folklore and the Politics of Racial Representation* represents an important addition to the histories of American folklore studies, illuminating too-long-overlooked intellectual contributions from our field's nascency, yet it will also appeal to ethnographers and others interested in the representation of folklore in the twenty-first century. . . . Moreover, literary theorists, especially those working with folklore, will likewise find the book invigorating and insightful."

—TODD RICHARDSON, *Journal of American Folklore*

"*Black Folklore and the Politics of Racial Representation* stands alone in its unapologetic analysis of how dominant popular and scientific discourses profoundly affected African American life, history, and culture."

—JERRILYN MCGREGORY, *Western Folklore*

"*Black Folklore and the Politics of Racial Representation* is a superb examination of the impact of black folklore on African American literature and identity in the nineteenth century."

—LANGSTON WILKINS, *Journal of Folklore Research*

"Shirley Moody-Turner's book provides an incisive look at the cultural politics of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries when black educators, folklorists, and writers . . . began to challenge popular culture's distorted image of African Americans."

—SCOTT L. MATTHEWS, *Journal of Southern History*

Shirley Moody-Turner is associate professor of English and African American studies at Pennsylvania State University. She is coeditor of *Contemporary African American Literature: The Living Canon* and has published articles and essays on black folklore and African American literature in *African American Review*, *MELUS*, *Journal of Southern History*, *MLA Approaches to Teaching Charles W. Chesnut*, *Oxford Bibliographies Online*, and *A Companion to African American Literature*.

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