**BACKGROUND**

Hip Hop, a form of artistic expression, emerged as an urban youth culture in the late 1970’s Bronx, New York. It has evolved into a thriving global sub-culture. There is a proliferation of scholarship by academics in multiple fields examining the impact and development of hip hop culture. Hip Hop is identified by four major elements

- DJing/Turntablism
- B-Boy B-Girl/Break-dancing
- Graffiti
- MCing/Rap

Other elements include (Beat-boxing, Street fashion, Street Language, Street Knowledge, and Entrepreneurialism)

Hip Hop culture has since evolved through music, film, fashion, business, protest, language, education, dance, and scholarship.

**OBJECTIVES**

This project seeks to identify the development of the scholarship on hip hop culture by identifying and analyzing a sample of completed dissertations from 1993-2011. Descriptive Analysis:

- Interdisciplinary nature of the scholarship (Subject & Department)
- Growth of the subject matter over time
- Identification of geographic regions and universities
- Overview of types of materials used
- Subsequent scholarly publications by dissertation authors on Hip Hop Culture

**RESULTS**

- The top three academic departments represented 53% of dissertations over all (Education, Communications, English).
- Between 1993-2011 there were no more than 4 dissertations per institution.
- There was overall growth of dissertations written over time related to Hip Hop. The greatest increase occurred in 2001 (from 6 to 11). Highest number published in a year was 44 (2009).
- Nearly half of the sample dissertations (47%) were written by institutions in the Midwest region (Illinois, Michigan, Ohio, Minnesota, Indiana, Iowa, Missouri, & Wisconsin) and the South Atlantic(Florida, Maryland, District of Columbia, Virginia, & Delaware)