

Interrogating Ashkenormativity Examines Systemic Disparities and the Experiences of Black and Brown Jews



Tomah, Wisconsin Oct 8, 2026 ([IssueWire.com](https://www.IssueWire.com)) - *Interrogating Ashkenormativity: Systemic Disparities, Repressive Interventions and Other Detriments Against Black and Brown Jews* offers a critical examination of how Jewish communal life, cultural representation, and ideas of Jewish identity have been shaped by what author **Sipporah International** describes as “Ashkenormativity” a framework in which Ashkenazi histories, cultural norms, and authority are treated as the default within broader Jewish life.

Drawing on historical analysis, ethnographic insight, and lived experience, the book explores the ways the author believes these dynamics have contributed to disparities affecting non-Ashkenazi, Black, and Brown Jews. It examines questions surrounding representation, institutional structures, cultural memory, conversion processes, educational environments, leadership pathways, and competing understandings of authentic Jewish identity.

Rather than treating these disparities as isolated experiences, *Interrogating Ashkenormativity* places them within a broader historical and social context. The book traces the development of Ashkenazi dominance from medieval Europe into modern Jewish communities and examines how historical narratives and institutional practices can influence whose experiences are recognized, represented, and given authority.

At the heart of the book is a call for greater examination of the diversity of Jewish histories and experiences. Sipporah International argues that Black and Brown Jewish communities should not be viewed simply through the lens of contemporary diversity initiatives, but as communities with longstanding connections to Jewish history and identity.

“Our non-European, non-Western Jewish stories deserve more than footnotes,” Sipporah International writes. “Black and Brown Jews are not ‘diversity.’ We are foundational to Judaism and the general Jewish people.”

The author’s perspective is informed by more than two decades of lived, observed, and researched experiences involving racism, inequality, marginalization, and questions of power within Jewish communal spaces. The book seeks to bring these experiences into wider discussion while encouraging readers to reconsider assumptions surrounding Jewish history, representation, and communal authority.

A Multidisciplinary Approach

Sipporah International brings together scholarship, storytelling, artistic practice, and lived experience in an accessible work intended for a broad readership. The book is positioned for scholars, educators, clergy, activists, community leaders, and readers interested in Jewish history, race, identity, representation, and social justice.

Beyond documenting disparities, *Interrogating Ashkenormativity* proposes a framework for examining how Jewish communities can engage more meaningfully with their internal diversity. The work emphasizes justice, accountability, historical awareness, and the dignity of diverse Jewish experiences.

About Sipporah International

Sipporah International is a Dutch-Surinamese multidisciplinary artist and educator based in Amsterdam. Her work spans musical theatre, storytelling, singing and songwriting, authorship, and Zumba instruction.

Combining performance, scholarship, cultural insight, and lived experience, Sipporah International brings a distinctive multidisciplinary perspective to her work. Her creative and educational practice reflects an interest in identity, culture, history, representation, and the experiences of communities whose stories are often overlooked.

About the Book

Interrogating Ashkenormativity: Systemic Disparities, Repressive Interventions and Other Detriments Against Black and Brown Jews examines the role of Ashkenazi cultural and institutional dominance in shaping contemporary Jewish identity and communal life.

The book explores historical narratives, institutional structures, cultural representation, and the experiences of Black and Brown Jews, while challenging readers to consider how a broader understanding of Jewish history and diversity might contribute to more inclusive communal spaces.

Book:

Interrogating Ashkenormativity: Systemic Disparities, Repressive Interventions and Other Detriments Against Black and Brown Jews

Author: Sipporah International

Book Link: [Amazon – Interrogating Ashkenormativity](#)

Author Website: [Sipporah International – Author Page](#)

Author Links: [Sipporah International on LinkMe](#)

The Spotlight Network on Interrogating Ashkenormativity by Sipporah International:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UurrQjf6naU>



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