

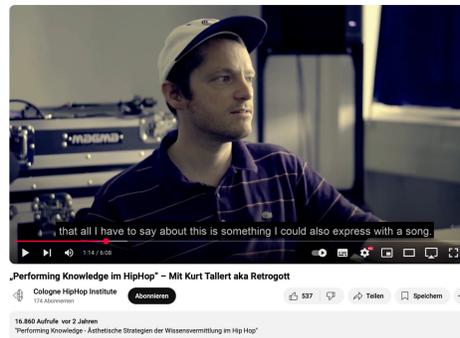
# HIP-HOP'S FIFTH ELEMENT: KNOWLEDGE, PEDAGOGY, AND ARTIST-SCHOLAR COLLABORATION

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## 1. Introduction

The aim of this first-of-its-kind project is to critically investigate hip-hop culture's fifth element: knowledge. Founded in the 1970s in New York City, hip-hop culture consists of four core elements: DJing, emceeing, graffiti, and dance. While hip-hop culture contains other elements beyond its core, many hip-hop artists and fans worldwide understand the fifth element to be knowledge. It refers to the fact that practitioners and fans understand the importance of the history, values, and artistry of the culture beyond their own background. Hip-hop's fifth element includes aims of self-realisation ('knowledge of self'), empowerment, information about the aesthetics and history of hip-hop, emphasizing the unique role and specific forms of learning and teaching. Because of its emancipatory potential, hip-hop is increasingly used in schools, at universities, and in a variety of youth and community education contexts. Knowledge is therefore central to hip-hop's inner logic, global popularity, and institutionalisation.

## 3. Artist-Scholar-Collaborations (selection)



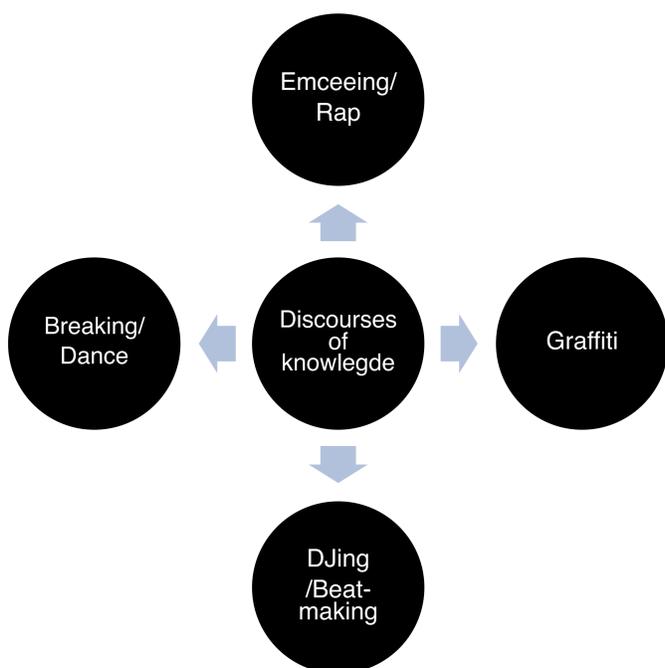
## 2. Research on discourses & aesthetical practises in Hip-Hop

### Objectives

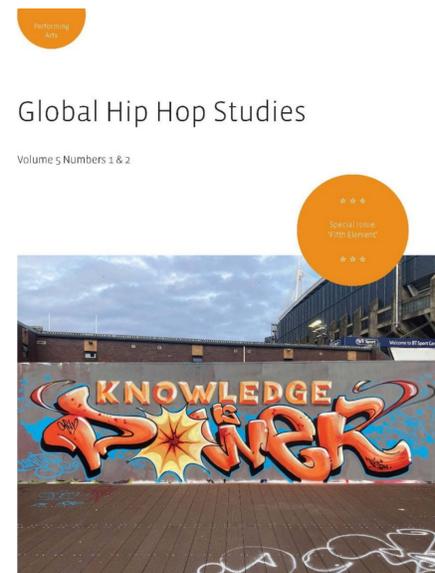
- How the practices and discourses of knowledge in Hip-hop are constructed?
- How these practices/discourses are incorporated and formalized by educational institutions?

### Mixed methods approach

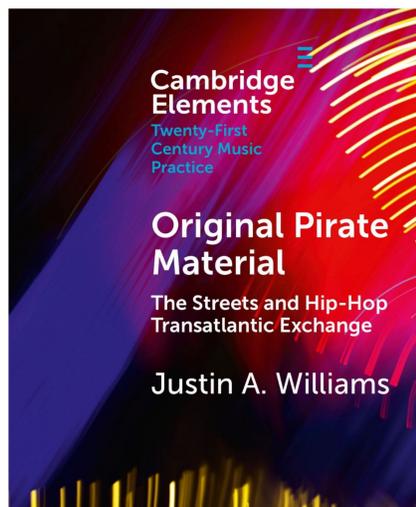
Musicology / Music analysis  
Culture theory  
Empirical research / Ethnography  
Discourse analysis  
Artistic research  
Philosophy of Music Education



## 4. Publications (selection)



Ed. by D. Chetty, S. Nitzsche, J. A. Williams



**F. Frost (2025): Dynamic Movements.**  
Ästhetiken, Bedeutungsmuster und Kontexte der Tanzkultur Breaking, PHD (forthcoming)

## 5. Project outcomes

UK/Bristol



GER/Cologne

