“Motown Memories: 
Forms and Functions of Facing the Music”

Tuesday • 21 January 2014 • 6:00–8:00 p.m. 
Room A • Department of English, American, and Celtic Studies • Regina-Paci-Weg 5

Pop music proverbially brings back (sweet) memories. Motown – and what has later been referred to as classic Motown – first became the sound of the Sixties and then remained lodged in the cultural memory of the (Black) Atlantic as a musical signifier of the decade. Rather than merely looking back at the importance of Motown music for the 1960s zeitgeist, the lecture establishes Motown as a powerful trope in our collective memory of the Sixties and sets out to scrutinize its function at the intersection of processes of collective identity formation, the cultural production of nostalgia, and the complex histories of race and racial(ized) bodies.

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