

# Dexter Thomas

Los Angeles, California

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## Education

### Cornell University

*Doctor of Philosophy*

Asian Literature, Religion, and Culture

**Ithaca, NY**

2010-2020

### Waseda University

*MEXT Fellowship Scholar*

Research in Japanese Hip-Hop Culture

**Tokyo, Japan**

2008-2010

### University of California

*Bachelor's*

English Major, Minors in Spanish and Japanese

**Riverside, CA**

2002-2006

## Dissertation

**"Niggers and Japs: Right Wing Hip-Hop and the Black Model Minority"**

**Dissertation**

*An analysis of how hip-hop became compatible with Japanese nationalism*

*Submitted May 2020*

## Positions Held

### Lecturer

*Teaching course entitled 'Japan and its Others'*

**UC Riverside**

*Fall 2022*

### Producer/Host

*Creating and Hosting a scholar interview podcast*

**Princeton**

*AY 2021-2022*

### Lecturer

*Creating and Teaching course entitled 'Why is Japan so Cool?'*

**UCLA**

*June-July 2021*

### Senior Fellow, Annenberg Innovation Lab

*Founding member of program*

**University of Southern California**

*2018-Current*

### Correspondent, East Asia / Media Culture

*Documentary journalism on HBO, Showtime, and others*

**VICE News Tonight**

*2016-Current*

### Reporter

*Youth Culture, and Minority Communities*

**Los Angeles Times**

*2015-2016*

### Graduate Resident Fellow

*Advising upper-level students on Cornell's West Campus dormitories*

**Cornell University**

*AY 2012-2013*

### Freelance Writer

*Writing for The Guardian, Al Jazeera, NPR, and others*

**Various**

*2014-Current*

### ASIAN 1104: hey guys let's talk about cool stuff

*Instructor*

*A writing course focused on the concept of 'cool', through the lens of race and gender*

**Cornell**

*Spring 2015*

### JAPAN 1101: Introductory Japanese

*Teaching Assistant*

**Cornell**

*Fall 2013*

Conducting lectures and classes entirely in Japanese, tutoring students in the language

**MUSIC 2390: Hip-Hop**

*Teaching Assistant*

Also gave lectures on youth culture politics, music production, and history

**Alvord Unified School District**

*Teacher*

**Cornell**

*Fall 2012*

**Riverside, CA**

*2007–2008*

## Selected Awards

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**Winner: News Emmy Award**

*Outstanding Arts Coverage for "The Dark Side of Manga" (translation + production)*

**VICE News**

*Sept 2023*

**Postdoctoral Fellowship**

*Recipient of ACLS Emerging Voices Fellowship*

**Princeton**

*August 2021*

**Winner: News Emmy Award**

*Outstanding Coverage of a Breaking News Story, for "American Uprising"*

**VICE News**

*Sept 2021*

**Nomination; News Emmy**

*Outstanding Culture Story, for "A Dose of Humanity in Virtual Reality"*

**VICE News/HBO**

*July 2020*

**Nomination; News Emmy**

*Outstanding Hard News Feature, for "The Rise of Carfentanil"*

**VICE News/HBO**

*July 2017*

**Pulitzer Prize for Breaking Reporting**

*Contributed reporting to the Los Angeles Times coverage of San Bernardino shooting*

**LA Times**

*April 2016*

**Tow-Knight Journalism Fellowship**

*A funding/training program for independent journalists*

**CUNY**

*June 2015*

**Fulbright Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad Fellowship**

*in Tokyo, Japan*

**Cornell University**

*2013–2014*

**MEXT (Monbukagakusho) Scholarship**

*Tokyo, Japan*

**Waseda University**

*2008–2010*

## Selected Publications

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**The Formula Behind Japanese Hip-hop's Right Wing**

*in Social Identities Vol 22 No 1-3 (Routledge)*

*2016*

**Can the Japanese Rap?**

*in Traveling Texts and the Work of Afro-Japanese Cultural Production (Lexington)*

*2015*

William H Bridges and Nina Cornyetz Ed.

## Selected Presentations

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**Artificial Intelligence and Malcolm X visits Japan**

*Workshop at Cornell University*

*2022*

**Golgo 13: The Original Japanese Black Revolutionary Manga**

*Anime Expo Academic Symposium*

*2019*

**Quizzes are Broken: A Digital Alternative for Writing Assessment**

*at Cornell Center for Teaching Excellence: Teaching Symposium*

*2015*

**Niggers and Japs: Japanese Hip-Hop's Right Wing**  
*at Association of Asian Studies Conference*

2013

## **Academic Service**

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**Senior Fellow, Annenberg Innovation Lab**

*Founding member of program*

**University of Southern California**

2018-Current

**Editorial Board**

*For Bloomsbury's 33 1/3 Japan Series*

**33 1/3 Japan**

2015-Current

**Executive Board, BGPSA**

*Cornell's Black Graduate and Professional Student Association*

**Cornell**

2010-2014