

Dwelling-in-travel: the politics of space and culture in claudes mckays home to harlem / Mario Laarman

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Abstrak

ABSTRAK

Contemporary scholarship on Jamaican-born writer and poet Claude McKay, an influential figure of the Harlem Renaissance, seems to be unanimous in approaching his work through a lens of inter- or transnationalism. Thereby, mainly two aspects are often emphasized: First, his travelers life which he has documented in his autobiography *A Long Way from Home*, and second his political position, traceable in both his fictional and his non-fictional publications. This essay explores a third aspect of McKays transnationalism: his politics of culture and identity. Assuming that experiences and practices of groundedness and movement go along with an understanding of the self, I analyze McKays 1928 novel *Home to Harlem* and argue that the built-in paradox James Clifford calls dwelling-in-travel is not only evident in the novels politics of space, but can also be traced in its politics of gender relations and his representation of race.