

Daniel A. Holder

“Setting the Record Straight”

Life Writing, Black Masculinities,
and the Resistance to McCarthyism

Ansgar Nünning, Vera Nünning, Norbert Finzsch (Hg.)

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In Loving Memory of my Father
Karl-Wolfgang Holder (1954-1990)

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Setting the Record Straight is a slightly revised version of my PhD-thesis which I handed in at the University of Giessen in June 2013. Chapter 4.2 and parts of chapter 3.3 were originally published as “‘I Got a Home in That Rock’: Paul Robeson’s *Here I Stand* and Cold War Resistance to McCarthyism” in the journal *a/b: Auto/biography Studies* 27.1 (Summer 2012): 67-100. This enabled me to present some of my arguments and findings to an international audience of scholars during the process of writing this book. The subchapter on Paul Robeson included in the study at hand, however, is a slightly revised version of this essay, profiting from the inclusion of additional archival material that was not used for the essay on Robeson in *a/b: autobiography studies*.

Parts of chapters 3.2 and 3.3, as well as chapters 4.1 and 4.2, are based on my unpublished master's thesis on W.E.B. Du Bois and Paul Robeson. While these parts resemble each other—offering similar results and footnotes, drawing on the similar primary source material and secondary literature—my analysis in the following pages differs, I would modestly suggest, in quality. Being able to conduct four more years of research for this book, encompassing two additional archival trips, an inquiry into a much broader canon of published and archival source material, the reading and inclusion of much more theory and secondary work, and not the least my very productive time at the GCSC in Giessen, all enabled me to grow as a young scholar. It is my hope that the results of the subsequent chapters adequately reflect this.