

Title:

Delany's Two Principles, The Argument for Emigration, and Revolutionary Black Nationalism

Abstract:

This paper is part of a book project on the so-called father of black nationalism, Martin Delany (1812-1884). The book project extends my earlier work on the history of African-American Political Thought (see, e.g., *In the Shadow of Du Bois* [Harvard UP, 2009]). The paper reconstructs Delany's antebellum argument for African American emigration to the West Indies and Central America. Delany's black nationalism, I show, is rooted in two principles—the sovereign principle and the principle of original identity—as well as in his reflections on the European Revolutions of 1848.