Editor's Note

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DOI: https://doi.org/10.13023/DISCLOSURE.08.01

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Recommended Citation
DOI: https://doi.org/10.13023/DISCLOSURE.08.01
Available at: https://uknowledge.uky.edu/disclosure/vol8/iss1/1

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disClosure
a journal of social theory
no. 8

peregriNations
(n.) wandering or going
about, traveling
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Funding for *disClosure* is provided by the UK Vice-President for Research & Graduate Studies and the UK Student Government Association.

Printed by UK Publishing Services

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ISSN 1055-6133
Articulating the Hip-Hop Nation: Rap as Transnational Urban Subculture in the United States and France

Adrian Fielder

My hip-hop will rock and shock the nation / like the Emancipation Proclamation.

One perspective on the cultural space(s) which this essay will attempt to investigate is provided by a scene from a recent movie: a young adult male in a fifth-story apartment can be seen placing a pair of large audio speakers in his open window, facing outwards. Clad in a T-shirt with the emblem for L.A.-based rap group Cypress Hill, the man is standing in front of a turntable system and preparing to spin vinyl records: he is a DJ.

A "disk-jockey," of course, is someone who plays records consecutively on the radio, or at parties and dance clubs. But this guy is a hip-hop DJ, which means that his art involves much more than simply putting on one record after another; a hip-hop DJ usually has several disks spinning simultaneously on the turntables, which must be