This multi-media talk will explore the place of women in hip-hop historically, gendered role models in commercial hip-hop today, and the controversial issue of the objectification of women's bodies and images in music videos.

In reading from her book, Dr. Osumare will also explore the globalization of the Africanist aesthetic, which is an extension of previous black artistic expressions such as verbal word play, polyrhythmic dance improvisations, radical juxtapositions of musical structures, and the folkloric trickster figure. Ultimately she will explore how hip-hop is a sign of the postmodern times and what this means for the imaging of women today.

Halifu Osumare is an Associate Professor of African American and African Studies at University of California, Davis. Before coming to UC Davis, she was Assistant Professor of Dance and American Culture Studies at Bowling Green State University in Ohio for five years. She has also taught at Stanford University, and is the Founder of CitiCentre Dance Theatre in Oakland, CA and the national dance initiative Black Choreographers Moving Toward the 21st Century.