

# CALL FOR PAPERS

7th Annual Philosophy Graduate Student Conference  
The University of Memphis Department of Philosophy  
February 11-12, 2011

## The Social Ontology of Race in the "Post-Racial" Era

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Jennifer Lisa Vest, University of Central Florida\*

The 7<sup>th</sup> annual Philosophy Graduate Student Conference at the University of Memphis in Memphis, TN will be held February 11-12, 2011. The conference will explore questions of the social ontology of race from both analytic and continental perspectives and beyond. Interdisciplinary by nature, discussion surrounding the social ontology of race has reverberations in companion disciplines such as ethnic studies, political theory, philosophy of law, history, feminist theory, queer theory, gender studies, sociology, anthropology, and psychology.

We invite philosophy papers addressing any of the following or related questions: What does it mean to be racialized as non-white in American culture today? To what extent does such a classification still carry negative connotations? How has the growing population of "mixed race" people affected how race is understood in America? How, if at all, has the election of our first black/ "mixed race" president changed the social ontology of race in America? Does this landmark event signify the onset of a "post-racial" era? How do these questions intersect with other issues of social ontology? Interdisciplinary approaches are welcomed.

Deadline for submission of papers is **December 2, 2010**. Papers should be sent as Word documents not to exceed 12 double-spaced pages. Papers should be suitable for blind review, including a cover letter with all relevant personal information (name, contact information, university affiliation).

Electronic submissions are preferred. Please send electronic submissions to any one of the conference organizers: Tina Botts ([tbotts@memphis.edu](mailto:tbotts@memphis.edu)), Alice Everly ([azeverly@memphis.edu](mailto:azeverly@memphis.edu)), Desiree Ramacus-Bushnell ([dgrmcsbs@memphis.edu](mailto:dgrmcsbs@memphis.edu)), or John Torrey ([jrtorrey@memphis.edu](mailto:jrtorrey@memphis.edu)).

In the alternative, please send hard copies to: The University of Memphis, Department of Philosophy, Clement Hall 327, Memphis, TN 38152, c/o Tina Botts, Alice Everly, Desiree Ramacus-Bushnell, and John Torrey.

\*Dr. Jennifer Lisa Vest is a mixedrace philosopher and poet who teaches philosophy and women's studies as an assistant professor in the philosophy department at the University of Central Florida (Orlando). She has published articles and poetry on topics in African Philosophy, Caribbean Philosophy, Feminist Philosophy, and Indigenous Philosophy. She is currently completing a book on Academic Native American Philosophy entitled, *Sovereign Thought*.

For more information, please contact one of the conference organizers or the faculty advisor for the conference, Distinguished Professor of Philosophy Dr. Bill E. Lawson ([belawson@memphis.edu](mailto:belawson@memphis.edu)).