

*The University of Memphis  
Department of Philosophy and Ida B. Wells Association  
present the 3rd annual*



# IDA B. WELLS PHILOSOPHICAL CONFERENCE

October 30, 2009  
3 p.m. — 5 p.m.

October 31, 2009  
10 a.m. — 5 p.m.

University of Memphis  
Rose Theater  
Entertainment Room

## Conference Organizers

Avril Abiodun  
[afuller1@memphis.edu](mailto:afuller1@memphis.edu)

William Allen  
[wsallen@memphis.edu](mailto:wsallen@memphis.edu)

Prof. Bill E. Lawson  
[belawson@memphis.edu](mailto:belawson@memphis.edu)

*Friday, October 30*

*Opening Keynote Address, 3 p.m.*

**Philosophy is Not a Luxury: A Conversation with Audre Lorde**

Prof. Kristie Dotson, Michigan State University

*Saturday, October 31*

**10 a.m.**  
**Natural Law Theory or Legal Interpretivism? The Mature Frederick Douglass's Method of Constitutional Interpretation**

*Speaker* Tina Botts  
University of Memphis

**1:30 p.m.**  
**An Exploration of Liberatory Oppression Theory in the Works of Maria Lugones and Judith Butler**

*Speaker* Desiree Valentine  
Marquette University

**11:15 a.m.**  
**Paris is Burning: An Archive of the Tension Between Ontology and Performativity**

*Speaker* Anthony Coleman  
Williams College

**2:30 p.m.**  
**Black Dialect: A Call To Be Recognized**

*Speaker* Michael Gumm  
Morehouse College

*Closing Keynote Address, 3:30 p.m.*

**The State of Black America: A Philosophical Investigation**

Prof. Sybol Cook Anderson, St. Mary's College