

Special Thanks

We must express our appreciation for the great support that has been given to the association for this conference by the faculty, graduate students, and staff of the University of Memphis Philosophy Department. We would like to thank the American Philosophical Association for funding this fourth year of the Ida B. Wells Philosophical Conference. We specifically would like to thank Department Chair Dr. Deborah Tollefsen and Graduate Admissions Director Mary Beth Mader. We would also like to thank Connie Diffie and Cathy Wilhelm for their tireless efforts to make this conference possible. Finally, we thank our advisor Dr. Bill E. Lawson, Distinguished Professor of Philosophy, for his limitless effort and support.

The 4th Annual Ida B. Wells Philosophical Conference



Hosted by:

The Ida B. Wells
Philosophical Association

THE UNIVERSITY OF
MEMPHIS
Department of Philosophy

Friday, Oct. 29, 2010, 3 - 5 PM

Saturday, Oct. 30, 2010, 10 AM - 6 PM

University Center
Bluff Room (UC 304)

The Ida B. Wells Philosophical Conference is sponsored by the American Philosophical Association.
Additional support is provided by the University of Memphis.
The University of Memphis is an Equal Opportunity/ Affirmative Action University, A Board of Regents Institution.

PRE-CONFERENCE ACTIVITIES

Thursday, October 28, 2010

8:30 Dinner with Bill & Renee Lawson

Friday, October 29, 2010

10:20 – 11:15 Meeting with Dr. Lawson and Graduate Students

11:15 – 12:00 Meeting with Department Chair

12:00 – 12:45 Meeting with Graduate Admissions Director

12:45 – 2:30 Ida B Wells Association Luncheon
(McCord Conference Room 207/208)

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

*(All sessions will take place in the
University Center Bluff Room (UC 304))*

Friday, October 29, 2010

3:00 – 5:00 OPENING KEYNOTE ADDRESS

***“Lessons from Jean-Paul Sartre: Decolonizing the
Philosophy Canon”***

Kathryn T. Gines, Ph.D. is Assistant Professor of Philosophy at The Pennsylvania State University. She is also the founding Director of the Collegium of Black Women Philosophers (CBWP) and the director of Cultivating Underrepresented Students in Philosophy (CUSP). Gines’

Contact List

Special Guests

Kathryn T. Gines *ktg3@psu.edu*

Quayshawn Spencer *qns Spencer@usfca.edu*

John Torrey *jrtorrey@memphis.edu*

Participants

Anthony Kelley *anthony.b.kelley@gmail.com*

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Organizers

William Allen *wsallen@memphis.edu*

Latoya Gardner *lmgrdner@memphis.edu*

Bill Lawson *belawson@memphis.edu*

4:00 – 6:00 CLOSING KEYNOTE ADDRESS

“Why There's No Space for Race in Phylogenetics”

Quayshawn Spencer, Ph.D. is a philosopher that specializes in philosophy of science, philosophy of biology, and philosophy of race. He earned his BA in philosophy and chemistry from Cornell University, where he wrote an honors thesis on the methodology of stereotype threat theory research. After Cornell, Prof. Spencer earned an MA in philosophy at Tufts University, where he developed an interest in philosophy of physics related to Isaac Newton. After Tufts, Prof. Spencer went on to earn both an MS in biology and a PhD in philosophy from Stanford University, where he focused on the intersection of philosophy of science, philosophy of biology, and race theory. After Stanford, Prof. Spencer did his postdoc at MIT, where he served as a Martin Luther King, Jr. Visiting Assistant Professor in the Department of Linguistics & Philosophy. Currently, Prof. Spencer is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Philosophy at the University of San Francisco, where he is working on a book about the philosophical foundations of biological racial anti-realism. Besides his research goals in philosophy, he is passionate about getting more underrepresented racial minorities interested in philosophy of science.

6:30 DINNER AT ONIX
(412 SOUTH MAIN ST.)

primary research and teaching interests lie in Continental Philosophy, Africana Philosophy, Black Feminist Philosophy, and Philosophy of Race. Gines has published articles on race, assimilation, and sex and sexuality in contemporary hip-hop, including: “From Color-Blind to Post-Racial: *Blacks and Social Justice* in the Twenty-First Century” in *Journal of Social and Political Philosophy*, Vol. XLI, Number 3, Fall 2010; “The Ambiguity of Assimilation: Commentary on Eamonn Callan’s, ‘The Ethics of Assimilation’” in *Symposia on Gender Race and Philosophy*, Volume 2, number 2. May 2006. Most recently Gines has co-edited an anthology titled *Convergences: Black Feminism and Continental Philosophy* (SUNY Press, 2010).

6:00 DINNER AT CATHY WILHELM’S
(340 SO. PERKINS, PECAN GROVE CLUB HOUSE)

Saturday, October 30, 2010

10:00 – 10:45 GRADUATE STUDENT PRESENTATION

“Some Ethical and Meta-Ethical Considerations of Supporting the NAACP”

John Torrey is a second year MA student at the University of Memphis. He received his BA in Philosophy and Spanish at Morehouse College. His philosophical interests include Marxism, critical theory, African-American philosophy, social and political philosophy, and ethics. He also has an appreciation for the history of philosophy. He has enjoyed philosophy as a means to critically analyze both himself and the world around him, and as such, he considers philosophy as a tool for empowering people. If you listen closely, you can hear his laugh echoing through Clement Hall.

11:00 – 11:40

“(Not Quite) All in the Family: The Paradox of American National Identity”

Anne Marie Pence is a senior at the University of Memphis. She is president of the Philosophy Circle and primary organizer for the 2010 Undergraduate Philosophy Conference. She was inducted into the Pinnacle Honors Society in Spring 2010 and awarded the Craig R. Garrett Memorial Scholarship for Philosophy for the 2010-2011 school year. She has been a paralegal for seven years and plans to attend law school after graduating. Her interest is in criminal law and business law. Her philosophical interests are gender and racial studies, as well as existentialism.

11:40 – 12:20

“Solidarity and Feminist Epistemology”

Benjamin Solis, a senior at Clark Atlanta University, is a philosophy-professor-in-training primarily interested in (Linguistic-y) Philosophy of Language (particularly pragmatics, vagueness, and meaning), Philosophy of Race/African-American Philosophy, Philosophy of Science, and Performance Theory. When he is not writing or reading philosophy, he is sleeping (and dreaming of funding for graduate school...and tenure).

12:20 – 2:30 Lunch

2:30 – 3:10

“Visible Identities”

Tyricka Simpson earned three associate degrees in Education, General Education, and Speech Communication. She thereafter attended the University of North Carolina at Charlotte where she obtained a B.A. in Philosophy with a minor in Africana Studies. Ms. Simpson has a deep passion for Philosophy, Law, Religion, and African Studies. She held an internship with the U.S House of Representatives interning for Congressman Melvin L. Watt. In addition to being awarded the President’s award and Bravo award in 2006 for her hard work and dedication to serving her community and student body at UNC-Charlotte, she represented as Vice President of the Student Government Association. Recently, Ms. Simpson was awarded the Excellence Award from the Africana Studies department at UNC-Charlotte.

3:10 – 3:50

“Breaking the Silence: Malcolm X, Masculinity, and Transformation in Context”

Anthony Kelley is a second-year M.A. student in philosophy at Northern Illinois University. A native of Birmingham, AL and a graduate of Columbia University where he received an A.B. in women's and gender studies, Anthony has burgeoning areas of interest in meta-ethics and African-American philosophy. In meta-ethics, he is especially interested in how moral language works and whether there are non-natural, objective moral properties. In African-American philosophy, he is especially interested in the philosophical foundations of black solidarity and notions of blackness. His paper comments on black feminist interpretations of Malcolm X's life and offers suggestions for future interpretive work.