

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 fifth year of the Ida B. Wells Philosophical Conference. We specifically would like to thank Department Chair Dr. Deborah Tolleson, Graduate Admissions Director Mary Beth Mader, and Director of Graduate Studies Kas Saghafi. We would also like to thank Connie Diffie and Cathy Wilhelm for their tireless efforts to make this conference possible. Additionally, we would like to thank William David Madlock and Tamara Haywood for their requested last minute contributions. Finally, we thank our advisor Dr. Bill E. Lawson, Distinguished Professor of Philosophy, who could not be with us for the conference this year, but is here with us in spirit.

**The 5th Annual
Ida B. Wells
Philosophical
Conference**

Hosted by:
**The Ida B. Wells
Philosophical Association**

THE UNIVERSITY OF
MEMPHIS
Department of Philosophy

Friday, Oct. 28, 2011, 3 - 5 PM

Saturday, Oct. 29, 2011, 10 AM - 6 PM

**University Center
River Room (UC 300)**

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

Friday, October 28, 2011

- 11:00 – 11:45 Meeting with Department Chair
- 11:45 – 12:30 Meeting with Director of Graduate Studies
- 12:30 – 2:30 Ida B Wells Association Luncheon
(Clement Hall, Room 329)

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

*(All sessions will take place in the
University Center River Room (UC 300))*

Friday, October 28, 2011

3:00 – 5:00 OPENING KEYNOTE ADDRESS

***“Emmanuel Levinas and Paul Gilroy on the Ethics of
Nationalism, Displacement and Diaspora”***

Kris Sealey, Ph.D. is an Assistant Professor of Philosophy at Fairfield University. She teaches courses in Critical Race Theory, Social and Political Philosophy, and Existentialism. She received her B.Sc. in Mathematics from Spelman College, Atlanta, GA, and her M.A. and Ph.D. in Philosophy from The University of Memphis, Memphis, TN in 2007.

Contact List

Special Guests

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Participants

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Organizers

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Bill Lawson	<i>belawson@memphis.edu</i>

4:45 – 6:00 ROUNDTABLE

Making the Profession of Philosophy More Inclusive of Minorities

The roundtable will consist of an open discussion between invited speakers and the audience concerning the problems encountered by minorities in general, and African-Americans in particular, in the profession of philosophy, and ways to make the field more inclusive. The conversation will also address the general struggle of African-Americans in academia historically, underlying causes, and new problems encountered in the 21st century.

Roundtable Participants:

Tamara Haywood, INSTRUCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY
(UNIVERSITY OF MEMPHIS)

William David Madlock, INSTRUCTOR OF POLITICAL
SCIENCE (UNIVERSITY OF MEMPHIS)

Kris Sealey, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR (FAIRFIELD
UNIVERSITY)

Yolonda Wilson, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR (DUKE
UNIVERSITY)

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

Her research interests lie in the areas of race theory, social and political philosophy, and recent French Continental Philosophy. Her book manuscript, which is currently under review at SUNY Press, addresses the work of Emmanuel Levinas and Jean-Paul Sartre around questions of transcendence and responsibility.

6:00 DINNER AT DEBORAH TOLLEFSEN'S
(3532 COWDEN AVE)

Saturday, October 29, 2011

10:00 – 10:45 GRADUATE STUDENT PRESENTATION

***“Carole Pateman: Black Women, White Women,
Slavery and Rape”***

Samaiyah Jones Scott is a doctoral candidate at the University of Memphis. She earned her Bachelor of Arts Degree in Philosophy and Religion from Paine College in Augusta, GA in 2005. She earned her Master of Arts Degree in Philosophy from University of Memphis in 2009. Her philosophical interests include, Black Feminism, African American Philosophy, Social-Political Philosophy, Feminism and Ethics. She is currently working on topics that concern the absence of black women from particular social and political theories.

11:00 – 11:45

“Modal Profile Tests and Social Constructionist Accounts of Racial Terms: A Defeating Blow?”

Michael Hunter earned his B.A. from UC Berkeley in Sociology with a minor in Philosophy, his M.A. from Texas Tech University in Philosophy with a graduate minor in Economics. He is on track to earn his M.Sc. in Philosophy of Science from the London School of Economics and Political Science in December 2011, where his dissertation was written on a new approach for determining the referent of natural kind terms. His interests are in Philosophy of Science, Philosophy of Language, Philosophy of Biology, Philosophy of Race (especially the metaphysics of race) and Philosophy of Economics. His research interests include the natural kind debate, the intersection of philosophy of language and philosophy of race, and empirical work on claims made by philosophers that apply to the general public, which is sometimes described as “Experimental Philosophy.”

11:50 – 12:35

“Rethinking the Educative Process: John Dewey, Wendy Kopp, and the Indeterminate Situation of Educative Inequity”

Tamar Brown is a rising senior and Posse Scholar at Brandeis University pursuing a BA in Philosophy and Legal Studies. This past summer she was awarded a McNair Research Fellowship at the University of New Hampshire, where she conducted research that aims to understand the mission and philosophy of Teach For America (TFA). Her research assesses whether TFA founder, Wendy Kopp’s experiences were educative and had the power to grow.

She anticipates pursuing philosophy at the graduate level, with a focus on American Pragmatism, in Fall 2012.

12:35 – 2:45 Lunch

2:45 – 4:30 CLOSING KEYNOTE ADDRESS

“Draining the Pool, Sex With Scorpions, and Other Preliminary Thoughts on Stigma”

Yolonda Y. Wilson, Ph.D. is Assistant Professor of Philosophy at Duke University. She earned her Ph.D. in philosophy at UNC-Chapel Hill, having worked with Bernard Boxill and Tom Hill. She has MAs from Howard University and UNC-Chapel Hill, and she earned her BA (*magna cum laude*) from Howard University. Professor Wilson has held numerous fellowships, including the Royster Fellowship and the Ford Foundation Dissertation Fellowship. She works primarily in philosophy of race and moral philosophy, with particular interests in race and medical ethics and moral responsibility for racial bias. Her current project is an account of whether stigma is ever morally permissible.