


Special Thanks

We must express our appreciation for the great support that has been given to the association by the faculty, graduate students, and staff of the University of Memphis Philosophy Department. Specifically, we would like to thank Department Chair Dr. Deborah Tollefsen, Graduate Admissions Director Dr. Mary Beth Mader, and Director of Graduate Studies Dr. Kas Saghafi. We would also like to thank Dr. Bill Lawson for his tireless dedication to both this conference, and perhaps more importantly, his commitment to diversity in the discipline of philosophy. Additionally, we would like to thank Connie Diffie and Cathy Wilhelm for their diligent efforts in making this conference possible. Moreover, we would like to thank our advisor Dr. Luvell Anderson for his tremendous hard work.



The 6th Annual Ida B. Wells Philosophical Conference

Hosted by:
The Ida B. Wells
Philosophical Association

THE UNIVERSITY OF
MEMPHIS
Department of Philosophy

Friday, Nov. 16, 2012, 3 - 5 PM
Saturday, Nov. 17, 2012, 10 AM - 6 PM

Michael D. Rose
Lecture Theatre

The Ida B. Wells Philosophical Conference is sponsored by the American Philosophical Association.
Additional support is provided by the University of Memphis.
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PRE-CONFERENCE ACTIVITIES

Friday, November 16, 2012

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

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

*(All sessions will take place in
Michael D. Rose Theatre Lecture Hall)*

3:00 – 5:00 OPENING KEYNOTE ADDRESS

***“Human Nature, Human Rights, and the Struggle for
Human Liberation”***

Vanessa C. Wills Ph.D., is Assistant Professor of Philosophy at Saint Joseph's University in Philadelphia, PA. She specializes in moral, social, and political philosophy, and 19th century philosophy (with a focus on the work of Karl Marx). She is particularly interested in the question of how different economic and social arrangements inhibit or promote the realization of values such as equality, freedom, and human development. Her current projects include a manuscript about Marx's moral thought, as well as essays on topics such as human rights, the relationship between freedom and determinism, and democratic leadership in Black politics. Dr. Wills earned her PhD in Philosophy at the University of Pittsburgh in 2011.

Contact List

Special Guests

- Charles W. Mills *c-mills@northwestern.edu*
- Vanessea C. Wills *vwills@sju.edu*
- Bill Lawson *belawson@memphis.edu*
- Deborah Tollefsen *dtollfsn@memphis.edu*
- Mary Beth Mader *mmader@memphis.edu*
- Karen Weddle-West *kweddle@memphis.edu*

Participants

- William Allen *wsallen@memphis.edu*
- Jordan Liz *jliz@memphis.edu*
- Nadah Namati *calmike17@hotmail.com*
- Julio Covarrubias *juliocovarrubias@gmail.com*

Organizers

- Corey L. Barnes *clbrnes1@memphis.edu*
- William Allen *wsallen@memphis.edu*
- Luvell Anderson Jr *lndrsn1@memphis.edu*

3:35 – 5:35 CLOSING KEYNOTE ADDRESS

“White Time: The Chronic Injustice of Ideal Theory”

Charles W. Mills is John Evans Professor of Moral and Intellectual Philosophy at Northwestern University. He works in the general area of oppositional political theory, and is the author of five books: *The Racial Contract* (1997); *Blackness Visible: Essays on Philosophy and Race* (1998); *From Class to Race: Essays in White Marxism and Black Radicalism* (2003); *Contract and Domination* (with Carole Pateman) (2007); and *Radical Theory, Caribbean Reality: Race, Class and Social Domination* (2010).

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

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

Saturday, November 17, 2012

10:00 – 10:45 GRADUATE STUDENT PRESENTATION

“A State of War: The Life of Disadvantaged Communities in The Wire”

William Allen is a doctoral candidate in philosophy at the University of Memphis. He earned his M. A. in philosophy from Georgia State University and B. A. in economics from Emory University. His philosophical interests include Social and Political Philosophy, Ethics and African-American Philosophy. His dissertation work focuses on analyzing liberal perfectionist theories as a basis to inform public policy aimed at revitalizing black underclass communities.

11:00 – 11:45 GRADUATE STUDENT PRESENTATION

“The Role of the Body in Double Consciousness”

Jordan Liz earned a B.A. in Philosophy and Economics and a B.S. in Business Administration from Hartwick College. He is currently at the University of Memphis pursuing a Master’s in Philosophy with an interest in modern philosophy, social and political philosophy, and philosophy of race, particularly in the relationship between traditional economic theory and race (e.g. can economic theory accommodate for raced individuals? If not, how must the theory change? And, perhaps most importantly, how will this new theory affect contemporary economic policies?) His current research is focused on double consciousness and developing the theory of equality found in Hobbes’ Leviathan.

11:50 – 12:35

“Understanding Iranian Materialism”

Nedah Nemati is a senior at Millsaps College obtaining a BS in Philosophy. Aside from studying, she has an interest in making philosophy readily available to her community. She was a fellow at the Center for Bioethics at the University of Mississippi Medical Center, where she conducted research and explored issues in health care. She also spent last summer teaching an introductory philosophy class to local high school students. She anticipates pursuing philosophy at the graduate level with her interests primarily in moral philosophy.

12:35 – 2:45 Lunch

2:45 – 3:35

“Culture as Process and Its Significance for the Multicultural Debate”

Julio Covarrubias earned his B.A. in Philosophy with certificates in History and Philosophy of Science and Latin American Studies from Arizona State University in May 2012. In 2012, he participated in Penn State University's Philosophy in an Inclusive Key Summer Institute (PIKSI) and Rutgers' Summer Institute for Diversity in Philosophy. He is interested in philosophical social theory, philosophy of social sciences, Latin American philosophy, ethics, aesthetics and political philosophy. More precisely, he is interested in questions about social and institutional reality, and social change as they have been answered in the Analytic, Continental, and Latin American traditions. More recently, he has developed an interest in embodied cognition, neurophenomenology, emergence, and systems theory. He anticipates pursuing further study in these topics at the graduate level in the Fall of 2013.