

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. Pleshette DeArmitt, Dr. Mary Beth Mader, Director of Graduate Studies Dr. Kas Saghafi, and Deborah Tollefsen. 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 for her diligent efforts in making this conference possible. Moreover, we would like to thank our advisor Dr. Luvel Anderson for his tremendous hard work.

7th Annual Ida B. Wells Philosophical Conference



Friday, October 18, 2013, 3:00 - 5:00 PM

Saturday, October 19, 2013, 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM

University Center: Shelby Room

The **Ida B. Wells**
Philosophical Association

THE UNIVERSITY OF
MEMPHIS
Department of Philosophy

The Ida B. Wells Philosophical Association is sponsored by the University of Memphis.
© University of Memphis. All rights reserved. 700 South University, Memphis, TN 38152-0001. 901.527.1000

PRE-CONFERENCE ACTIVITIES

Friday, October 18, 2013

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

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

*(All sessions will take place in
University Center: Bluff Room)*

3:00 – 5:00 OPENING KEYNOTE ADDRESS

***“Gotta Sing on the Beats They Bring Us: Gender, Class
and 21st Century Blueswomen’s Epistemology”***

Zandria F. Robinson Ph.D., is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Sociology and an alumna of the University of Memphis. She earned the PhD in Sociology from Northwestern University in 2010. Before joining the Department of Sociology, Robinson was Assistant Professor of Sociology and McMullan Assistant Professor of Southern Studies at the University of Mississippi (2009-2012) and William Randolph Hearst Dissertation Fellow and Assistant Professor of Sociology at Rhodes College (2008-2009). Robinson's research focuses on the post-Civil Rights black South, with attention to the histories, cultures, and ideas generated by regional insiders and outsiders. Broadly, her primary research interests include race, class, gender, and sexuality; urban sociology; popular culture; and feminism, with a focus on black feminist theory.

Contact List

Special Guests

Howard McGary	hmcgary@rci.rutgers.edu
Zandria Robinson	zandria.robinson@memphis.edu
Bill Lawson	belawson@memphis.edu
Pleshette DeArmitt	pdearmtt@memphis.edu
Mary Beth Mader	mmader@memphis.edu

Participants

Jenny Mith	mithjenn@grinnell.edu
Nolan Harris Jr.	nolan.harris.jr@gmail.com
Bethany Miller	miller.bethany48@gmail.com
Jesse Romo	romojess@grinnell.edu

Organizers

Corey L. Barnes	clbrnes1@memphis.edu
Jordan Liz	jliz@memphis.edu
Luvell Anderson Jr.	lndrsn1@memphis.edu

3:00 – 5:00 CLOSING KEYNOTE ADDRESS

***“Closing the Achievement Gap: Race, Family Autonomy,
and Educational Opportunity”***

Howard McGary Jr. is professor of philosophy at Rutgers University. He earned his Ph.D. from the University of Minnesota. His research focuses on collective responsibility, compensatory justice, distributive justice, justice and the distribution of health care, political liberalism, race and racism, and the virtues, especially forgiveness. Further, he serves on the editorial boards of *Encyclopedia of Ethics*, *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews*, *The Journal of Ethics*, *The Philosophical Forum*, and *Social Identities*. Dr. McGary is the Founder and Director of the Rutgers Summer Institute for Diversity in Philosophy. His books include: *The Post-Racial Ideal* (2012), *Race and Social Justice* (1999), and *Between Slavery and Freedom: Philosophy and American Slavery* with our very own Dr. Bill E. Lawson (1992).

6:30 DINNER AT DEJAVU
(936 FLORIDA ST.)

6:00

DINNER AT DEBORAH TOLLEFSEN'S
(3532 COWDEN AVE)

Saturday, November 17, 2012

10:00 – 10:45 STUDENT PRESENTATION

“Using Biopolitics as a Framework for Analyzing Genocide”

Jenny Mith is a senior Philosophy major at Grinnell College. As a child of two Cambodian refugees, the narrative of the Khmer Rouge has made a lasting impression on her. In 2012 Mith was awarded the Mellon Mays Undergraduate Research Fellowship, where she studied the plight of the Cambodian refugee upon immigrating to the United States. Combining her interest in Continental Philosophy with her background on the Khmer Rouge, she was able to apply a Foucaultian biopolitical framework to the experience of the Cambodian refugee. Currently, she is working on drawing biopolitical parallels between treatment of Cambodians during the Cambodian genocide to treatment of Cambodian refugees in the United States with the hope of one day improving policies regarding immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers.

10:45 – 11:30 STUDENT PRESENTATION

“Prophetic Pragmatism: Justified Hope for Social Change”

Nolan Harris, Jr. is currently an undergraduate student of philosophy at Rochester Institute of Technology. He is primarily interested in the Existentialist work of Jean-Paul Sartre, Simone de Beauvoir, and Lewis R. Gordon, along with the Pragmatist-Marxist-religious thought of Cornel West, eastern philosophies (Kyoto School, Buddhist philosophy), and work in the Critical Philosophy of Race. Nolan will complete coursework for a B.S. in Philosophy next spring, and intends to continue study at the graduate level in the Fall of 2014."

11:30 – 12:15 STUDENT PRESENTATION

“Cultural Identity and Solidarity in Ourika: A Black Female Perspective”

Bethany Miller is a recent graduate of Kings College in London, where she earned her MA in philosophy. As an undergraduate she double majored in Philosophy and Mathematics and graduated magna cum laude from Nyack College in New York. Her philosophical interests include Philosophy of Mathematics, Pragmatism, Kant, and Philosophy of Race. She currently lives in Albuquerque, NM and outside of philosophy she enjoys playing the guitar, salsa dancing, and reading Russian novels.

12:15 – 2:15 LUNCH AT GIRIBALDI'S

2:15 – 3:00 STUDENT PRESENTATION

“Is Spanglish a Linguistic Colonization?: A Consideration of the Interaction Between History, Power, and Language”

Jesse Romo was raised in a multi-ethnic family with lineage to Japan, Ireland, and Mexico. Not surprisingly, race, ethnicity, and their relation to identity were a prominent force in his life. I was always an inquisitive child, but it was not until I was given the opportunity of my lifetime—a full-tuition scholarship to a small liberal arts college—and embarked upon a journey of intellectual self-discovery, that I began to question the meaning of these borders that, for my whole life, I had felt were tearing me apart from within. Anzaldúa was inspiring, Hegel was (although challenging) enlightening, and Mignolo was liberating.