

## 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 for her support of this conference. Additionally, we would like to thank Dr. Mary Beth Mader, Director of Graduate Admissions, Dr. Timothy Roche, who is our Director of Graduate Studies, and Dr. Deborah Tolleson. We would also like to thank Dr. Bill Lawson for all that he has done with this conference throughout the years, and, perhaps more importantly, for his unwavering commitment to diversity in the discipline of philosophy. Additionally, we would like to thank Connie Diffie and Cathy Wilhelm for her diligent efforts in making this conference possible.

## 8th Annual Ida B. Wells Philosophical Conference



Friday, December 5, 2014, 3:00PM - 5:00PM

Saturday, December 6, 2014, 10:00AM - 5:00PM

University Center: Bluff Room (304)

The Ida B. Wells  
Philosophical Association

THE UNIVERSITY OF  
**MEMPHIS**  
Department of Philosophy

The Ida B. Wells Conference is sponsored by the University of Memphis.  
A Tennessee Board of Regents Institution · An Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action University · UOM393-FY1415/35

## PRE-CONFERENCE ACTIVITIES

### Friday, December 5, 2014

11:00 – 12:30 Meeting with Department Faculty

12:30 – 2:30 Ida B Wells Association Luncheon  
(Clement Hall, 213)

### CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

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

3:00 – 5:00 OPENING KEYNOTE ADDRESS

### “What We Want(ed): Recovering From the Obama Era”

**Paul C. Taylor PhD** is professor of philosophy and African American Studies at Pennsylvania State University, where he also directs the Program on Philosophy After Apartheid at the Rock Ethics Institute. Dr. Taylor writes on aesthetics, race theory, Africana philosophy, pragmatism, and social philosophy, and is the author of *Race: A Philosophical Introduction* (Polity, 2004). Dr. Taylor is also the co-editor of *The Philosophy of Race* (edited series of reference works; Routledge, 2012). More recently Dr. Taylor co-edited a special issue of *The Journal of Social Philosophy* (with Ronald Sundstrom) on critical philosophy of race, and is currently at work on a book called *Black is Beautiful: A Philosophy of Black Aesthetics* (under contract, Blackwell).

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

## Contact List

### Special Guests

Linda Martín Alcoff      [lmartina@hunter.cuny.edu](mailto:lmartina@hunter.cuny.edu)

Paul C. Taylor            [pct2@psu.edu](mailto:pct2@psu.edu)

Pleshette DeArmitt      [pdearmtt@memphis.edu](mailto:pdearmtt@memphis.edu)

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

Timothy Roche            [troche@memphis.edu](mailto:troche@memphis.edu)

### Participants

Bryan Kimoto              [bkimoto@memphis.edu](mailto:bkimoto@memphis.edu)

Mandela Okere            [mjokere@gmail.com](mailto:mjokere@gmail.com)

Deshawn Harris            [dph0003@uah.edu](mailto:dph0003@uah.edu)

### Organizers

Luvell Anderson Jr.        [Indrsn1@memphis.edu](mailto:Indrsn1@memphis.edu)

Corey L. Barnes            [clbrnes1@memphis.edu](mailto:clbrnes1@memphis.edu)

Jordan Liz                  [jliz@memphis.edu](mailto:jliz@memphis.edu)

**Saturday, December 6, 2014**

10:00 – 11:00 GRADUATE STUDENT PRESENTATION

**“Narrative and the Queer Resignification of Raced Identity in Anzaldúa, Butler, and Lorde”**

**Bryan Kimoto** is a first-year doctoral student at the University of Memphis. Kimoto earned his BA in Philosophy from Northern Arizona University and his MA in Philosophy from Loyola Marymount University. Kimoto’s research interests are at the intersection of continental philosophy (especially Arendt and Foucault), social and political philosophy, and theories of difference. Kimoto is currently working on developing an account of narrative practices of the self as a way of resisting and subverting traditional understandings and politics of personal identity and difference.

11:15 – 12:00 STUDENT PRESENTATION

**“Black Power and the Creation of a New Politics”**

**Mandela Okere** is completing a MA in the Education Policy Studies and Research Department at DePaul University. Okere’s academic interests are in developing and exploring theories about human societies and identity through the Black experience in America. Okere finds historical examples of resistance to, and reconceptualizations of, traditional power relationships, uses both Black and Latin American sources in his research. Okere is also a coordinator with the Egan Office of Urban Education and Community Partnerships where he serves to provide during- and after-school enrichment activities to community schools in Chicago. Okere’s organization works to provide outlets for students, families and community leaders to develop pride in their community through projects like urban gardens, performance art and music, and political debates.

12:00 – 2:00 LUNCH AT GARIBALDI’S

2:00 – 2:45 STUDENT PRESENTATION

**“African American Identity and Society”**

**DaShawn Harris** is a senior philosophy major at the University of Alabama in Huntsville, where he focuses primarily on African American Philosophy. Harris’ minor is in political science, with a focus on political philosophy. Harris has an affinity for existentialism, racial philosophy, ethics, and philosophy of the mind, and plans to enter into a graduate department of philosophy in the fall of 2015.

3:00 – 5:00 CLOSING KEYNOTE ADDRESS

**“Dussel and Descartes”**

**Linda Martín Alcoff PhD** is a professor of Philosophy at Hunter College and the CUNY Graduate Center. Dr. Martín Alcoff’s writings have focused on social identity and race, epistemology and politics, sexual violence, Foucault, Dussel, and Latino issues in philosophy. Dr. Martín Alcoff has written two books: *Visible Identities: Race, Gender and the Self* (Oxford, 2006) and *Real Knowing: New Versions of the Coherence Theory* (Cornell, 1996). In addition, Dr. Martín Alcoff’s has edited ten other books, including *The Blackwell Guide to Feminist Philosophy* co-edited with Eva Feder Kittay (Blackwell, 2006); *Identity Politics Reconsidered* co-edited with Michael Hames-Garcia, Satya Mohanty and Paula Moya (Palgrave, 2006); and *Constructing the Nation: A Race and Nationalism Reader* co-edited with Mariana Ortega (SUNY, 2009).

6:30 DINNER AT DEJAVU  
(52 S. MAIN ST.)