

# HARVARD UNIVERSITY

W. E. B. DU BOIS INSTITUTE FOR AFRICAN AND AFRICAN AMERICAN RESEARCH  
DEPARTMENT OF AFRICAN AND AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES

Barker Center • 12 Quincy Street • Cambridge, MA 02138-3879

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Electronic photo available

## Acclaimed Scholar and Activist, Manning Marable Examines “Living Black History”

**Cambridge** – On April 20 – 22, 2004, Manning Marable, one of the nation’s most influential and widely-read scholars of the black experience, examines how lessons learned from the past can empower African Americans to create their own “living black history” at the W. E. B. Du Bois Lectures, a three-day series taking place at Harvard University.

In the first lecture of the series, entitled “Resurrecting the African American Intellectual Tradition”, Marable asserts that the social justice traditions of black leaders such as Martin Luther King, Jr. and Malcom X have their roots in the Marxist theories of Paul Baran and Antonio Gramsci. In the second lecture, “Black History on the Auction Block, Preserving Malcolm X’s Legacy”, Marable critiques the recent birth of a lucrative and speculative market for Malcolm X memorabilia. In the final lecture, “The Revolution in Black Studies” he argues for a restructuring in black studies that leverages digital technology, mobilizes grassroots community involvement and halts the erosion of civil rights while preserving the collective memory, rituals, and traditions of African Americans. According to Marable, such a fundamental and urgent shift in black studies can firmly secure its relevance and intellectual legitimacy in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Marable has written over 250 journal articles, and has authored and edited nearly twenty books and scholarly anthologies, including: *The Great Wells of Democracy: The Meaning of Race in American Life* (2003); general editor, *Freedom on My Mind: The Columbia Documentary History of the African American Experience* (2003); co-editor, with Leith Mullings, *Freedom* (2002); co-editor, with Leith Mullings, *Let Nobody Turn Us Around: Voices of Resistance, Reform, and Renewal: An African-American Anthology*, (2000).

Since 1976, Marable has written “Along the Color Line,” a political commentary series that appears in over 400 newspapers and journals worldwide. He is also regularly featured in national and international media and donates much of his time to fundraising and speaking on behalf of prisoners’ rights, labor, civil rights, faith-based institutions, and other social justice organizations.

The W. E. B. Du Bois Lectures were established in 1981 with funding from the Ford Foundation. Co-sponsored by the W. E. B. Du Bois Institute for African and African American Research, the Department of African and African American Studies, and Harvard University Press, the lectures recognize persons of outstanding achievement who have contributed to a better understanding of African American life, history and culture.

**Who:** Manning Marable, Director, Center for Contemporary Black History and Professor of Public Affairs, Political Science and History, Columbia University

**What:** W. E. B. Du Bois Lecture Series: Living Black History

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Resurrecting the African American Intellectual Tradition  
Black History on the Auction Block, Preserving Malcolm X's Legacy  
The Revolution in Black Studies

**When and Where:** Tuesday, April 20, Wednesday, April 21 and Thursday, April 22. All lectures take place at 4 PM – 5:30 PM in the Thompson Room, Barker Center, 12 Quincy Street. A reception follows each lecture. Free, open to the public and wheel-chair accessible.

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