

TOMMIE SHELBY

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Education:

Ph.D. in Philosophy, University of Pittsburgh, 1998
Doctoral Certificate in Cultural Studies, University of Pittsburgh, 1998
B.A. in Philosophy, Florida A & M University, 1990

Academic Appointments:

Professor of African and African American Studies and of Philosophy, Harvard University, 2007-

John L. Loeb Associate Professor of the Social Sciences, Harvard University, 2004-2007

Assistant Professor of African and African American Studies and of Social Studies, Harvard University, 2000-2004

Assistant Professor of Philosophy, Ohio State University, 1998–2000

Areas of Specialization:

African American Philosophy; Social and Political Philosophy; Social Theory

Areas of Competence:

Ethics; Philosophy of Law; Philosophy of Social Science

Publications:

Books

- *We Who Are Dark: The Philosophical Foundations of Black Solidarity* (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 2005).
- *Hip Hop and Philosophy: Rhyme 2 Reason*, coedited with Derrick Darby (Chicago: Open Court, 2005).

Translated by Martha Malvezzi Leal into Portuguese as *Hip Hop e a Filosofia: Da Rima à Razão* (Sao Paulo, Brazil: Madras, 2006).

Refereed Journal Articles

- "Justice, Deviance, and the Dark Ghetto," *Philosophy & Public Affairs* 35 (Spring 2007): 126-160.
- "Blackness and Blood: Interpreting African American Identity," (with Lionel K. McPherson) *Philosophy & Public Affairs* 32 (March 2004): 171-192.

- "Two Conceptions of Black Nationalism: Martin Delany on the Meaning of Black Political Solidarity," *Political Theory* 31 (October 2003): 664-692.
- "Ideology, Racism, and Critical Social Theory," *Philosophical Forum* 34 (Summer 2003): 153-188.
- "Parasites, Pimps, and Capitalists: A Naturalistic Conception of Exploitation," *Social Theory and Practice* 28 (July 2002): 381-418.
- "Foundations of Black Solidarity: Collective Identity or Common Oppression?" *Ethics* 112 (January 2002): 231-266.
- "Is Racism in the 'Heart'?" *Journal of Social Philosophy* 33 (Fall 2002): 411-420.

Other Publications

- "David Walker," in *A New Literary History of America*, ed. Greil Marcus and Werner Sollors (Harvard University Press, forthcoming).
- "Comment on Glenn Loury," in Glenn C. Loury, *Race, Incarceration, and American Values* (Cambridge, Mass.: MIT Press, 2008).
- "Cosmopolitanism, Blackness, and Utopia: An Interview with Paul Gilroy," *Transition* 98 (2008).
- "Race, Culture, and Self-Determination," in *Pragmatism, Nation, and Race: Community in the Age of Empire*, ed. Eduardo Mendieta and Chad Kautzer (Indiana University Press, forthcoming).
- "A Misdiagnosis of the Problem: Comment on Walter Benn Michaels," *Chronicle of Higher Education* 53 (December 2006).
- "Blackness and Philosophy: Reply to Gannett, Outlaw, Taylor, and Velazco y Trianosky," (with Lionel K. McPherson) *Symposia on Gender, Race and Philosophy* 1 (May 2005). <http://web.mit.edu/sgrp/2005/no1/McPhersonShelby0505.pdf>
- "Race and Social Justice: Rawlsian Considerations," *Fordham Law Review* (special symposium on John Rawls and the Law) 72 (2004): 1697-1714.
- "Black Nationalism," in *Routledge Encyclopedia of Philosophy On-Line*, ed. Edward Craig (Routledge, 2005).

Book Reviews

- Review of Charles W. Mills, *From Class to Race: Essays in White Marxism and Black Radicalism*. *Perspectives on Politics* 2 (September 2004): 576-577.
- Review of Lawrence Blum, *"I'm not a Racist, but...": The Moral Quandary of Race*. *Philosophical Review* 112 (January 2003): 124-126.
- Book Note on David Ingram, *Group Rights*. *Ethics* 112 (January 2002): 422-423.

Fellowships, Scholarships, and Awards:

Laurence S. Rockefeller Visiting Fellowship, University Center for Human Values, Princeton University, 2005-2006

New York Magazine Best Academic Book of 2005

Ford Foundation Postdoctoral Fellowship for Minorities, 2002-2003

College of Humanities Minority Dissertation Fellowship, Ohio State University, 1996-1998

Michael R. Bennett Essay Prize in Philosophy, University of Pittsburgh, 1996

Provost Development Fellowship, University of Pittsburgh, 1995-1996

Cultural Studies Pre-Doctoral Fellowship, University of Pittsburgh, 1993-1994

Martin Luther King, Jr. Scholarship in Philosophy, Florida A & M University, 1988-1990

Lectures, Seminars, and Conferences:

“The Ethics of the Oppressed: Lessons from Uncle Tom’s Children”

- Richard Wright Centennial Conference; American University of Paris; Paris, France; June 19-21, 2008.
- Building Coalitions Across Difference Conference (Keynote Lecture); University of Dayton; Dayton, OH; March 6-8, 2008.
- Collegium for African American Research Conference; Madrid, Spain; April 21, 2007.

Author Meets Critics Session on *We Who Are Dark* with Linda Alcoff, Lucius Outlaw, and Ronald Sundstrom; American Philosophical Association (Pacific); Pasadena, CA; March 21, 2008.

“Race, Identity, and the Obligation Thesis: Comment on David Wilkins”; American Association of Law Schools Meeting; New York, NY; January 3, 2008

Comment on Glenn Loury, “Racial Stigma, Mass Incarceration, and American Values” (Tanner Lectures on Human Values); Stanford University; Stanford, CA; April 6, 2007.

“Racism, Morality, and Social Criticism”

- American Political Science Association; Chicago, IL; September 1, 2007.
- North American Society for Social Philosophy (Keynote Lecture); Millersville, PA; July 14, 2007.
- Department of Philosophy; Ohio State University; Columbus, OH; May 4, 2007.
- Department of Philosophy; University of California at Berkeley; Berkeley, CA; March 5, 2007.
- Center for the Study of Race, Ethnicity, and Politics; UCLA; Los Angeles, CA; March 1, 2007.
- The Complexities of Race in American Society Lecture Series; Sarah Lawrence College; Bronxville, NY; February 8, 2007.
- Black History Month Convocation Keynote Lecture; Williams College; Williamstown, MA; Feb. 3, 2007.

- Department of Philosophy; University of Toronto; Toronto, Canada; November 17, 2006.

Authors Meet Authors Critically: Symposium Discussion with Paul C. Taylor and Anna Stubblefield focused on our three recent books; American Philosophical Association (Central); Sponsored by the APA Committee on Blacks in Philosophy; Chicago, IL; April 27, 2006.

“Race and Contemporary Political Theory”; Symposium Discussion with Lewis R. Gordon, moderated by Neil Roberts; Johns Hopkins University; Baltimore, MD; April 10, 2006

“Interpreting ‘Black Nationalism’: Reply to Pittman and Wilson”; Alain L. Locke Conference; Howard University; Washington, DC; April 7, 2006

“Justice, Deviance, and the Dark Ghetto”

- Centre for Ethics; University of Toronto; Toronto, Canada; November 20, 2006.
- Moral Philosophy Conference sponsored by Ohio State University, University of Maribor, and University of Rijeka; Inter-University Centre; Dubrovnik, Croatia; May 22-26, 2006
- Society for the Study of Africana Philosophy; New York, NY; April 23, 2006
- Department of Philosophy; Columbia University; New York, NY; March 21, 2006
- Workshop in Law, Philosophy, and Political Theory; UC Berkeley; Berkeley School of Law, CA; February 16, 2006

“Race, Science, and Common Sense: Comment on Anthony Appiah and Philip Kitcher”; Symposium on Race and Natural Kinds; American Philosophical Association (Eastern); New York, NY; December 30, 2005.

“Race, Class, and Shame: Du Bois on Black Solidarity”

- Department of African American Studies; Northeastern University; Boston, MA; December 6, 2006.
- Department of African American Studies; Boston College; Chestnut Hill, MA; Oct. 18, 2006.
- Parr Center for Ethics; University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; Chapel Hill, NC; March 7, 2006
- Department of Philosophy; Tufts University; Medford, MA; November 4, 2005
- Annual American Culture and Politics Lecture; Oregon State University; Corvallis, OR; October 17, 2005

Comment on Charles W. Mills, *From Class to Race: Essays on White Marxism and Black Radicalism*; Author Meets Critics Session; American Philosophical Association (Central); Chicago, IL; April 28, 2005.

Comment on Lawrence Blum, *"I'm not a Racist, but...": The Moral Quandary of Race*; Author Meets Critics Session; American Philosophical Association (Pacific); San Francisco, CA; March 26, 2005.

Comment on Gregg Santori, "The Civilization Imperative"; Conference on Du Bois and the Scientific Study of Race; Yale University, New Haven, CT; March 4, 2005

"Black Solidarity after Black Power."

- Colloquium in Legal, Political, and Social Philosophy; NYU Law School; New York, NY; October 27, 2005.
- Association for Political Theory Conference; St. Louis, MO; October 21-22, 2005.
- Collegium for African American Research Biennial Conference; Tours, France; April 21, 2005.
- Legal Theory Workshop; UCLA Law School; Los Angeles, CA; November 18, 2004.
- Luncheon Seminar; Safra Foundation Center for Ethics; Harvard University; Cambridge, MA; October 18, 2004.
- Panel on "Political Theory and the Problem of the Color Line"; American Political Science Association; Chicago, IL; September 2, 2004.
- Workshop on Critical Race Studies; Center for the Humanities; Northwestern University; Evanston, IL; May 7, 2004.

"The Ideal of Racial Justice." Panel on "Equal Citizenship: Race and Ethnicity"; Symposium on Rawls and the Law; Fordham School of Law; New York, NY; November 7-8, 2003.

"Du Bois on Black Solidarity and the Educated Elite."

- Conference on Du Bois and the Scientific Study of Race; Yale University, New Haven, CT; March 4, 2005
- Special roundtable to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of W. E. B. Du Bois's *The Souls of Black Folk*; American Political Science Association; Philadelphia, PA; August 28-31, 2003

"The Ideal of Black Cultural Self-Determination." Symposium on Pragmatism and Nationalism; SUNY Stony Brook; Stony Brook, NY; April 25-26, 2003.

"The Ideal of Black Self-Determination."

- College of the Holy Cross; Department of Philosophy; Worcester, MA; April 10, 2003.
- Conference on Racism and Philosophy; Baruch College; New York, NY; March 6-7, 2003.

Commentator for the Panel "Social Construction of Racial and Ethnic Identities"; American Political Science Association; Boston, MA; August 29 – September 1, 2002.

Comment on Aldon Morris, "Engagement in Public Activism." Conference on Social Connectedness and Public Activism; Harvard University; Cambridge, MA; May 23-24, 2002.

"Two Conceptions of Black Nationalism: Martin Delany on the Meaning of Black Political Solidarity"

- Future of Minority Studies Conference: "Redefining Identity Politics"; Stanford University; Stanford, CA; October 19-20, 2001.
- Saint Anselm College; Manchester, NH; February 20, 2002
- Society for the Study of Africana Philosophy; New York, NY; February 17, 2002.
- Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy (critical commentary by Lucius Outlaw); Chicago, IL; October 10-12, 2002.
- Harvard University; Du Bois Institute for Afro-American Research; Cambridge, MA; October 30, 2002.

"Is Racism in the 'Heart'?" (critical commentary by David Kim). American Philosophical Association (Pacific Division); San Francisco, CA; March 28-31, 2001.

"African American Studies at Harvard." College of Arts and Sciences Forum Luncheon; Bowling Green State University; Bowling Green, OH; February 16, 2001.

Comment on Jami Anderson, "Placing Blame in a Racist Society." American Philosophical Association (Central Division); Chicago, IL; April 20-23, 2000.

Comment on David Weberman, "Is Group Identity in Bad Faith? A Sartrean Perspective." American Philosophical Association (Eastern Division); Boston, MA; December 27-30, 1999.

"Foundations of Black Solidarity: Collective Identity or Common Oppression?"

- Collegium for African American Research Biennial Conference: "Crossroutes: The Meanings of Race for the 21st Century"; Cagliari/Sardinia, Italy; March 21-25, 2001.
- American Philosophical Association (Pacific Division). Special Session sponsored by the APA Committee on Blacks in Philosophy (critical commentary by Howard McGary); Albuquerque, NM; April 6-9, 2000.
- Alain Locke Conference on Race and Gender; Howard University; Washington, DC; September 17-19, 1999.

"Parasites, Pimps, and Capitalists: A Naturalistic Conception of Exploitation"; Bowling Green State University; Department of Philosophy; Bowling Green, OH; February 16, 2001.

Comment on Carol Moeller, "Moral Attention: Ethics Without Illusions." University of Pittsburgh; Cultural Studies Colloquium; Pittsburgh, PA; spring 1994

Teaching Experience:

African American Philosophy
Black Nationalism
Classics of Social Theory

Concepts of Human Nature
Equality and Justice
Ethics
Marxism: The Analytical School
Marx and Marxism
Marxist Theories of Racism
Philosophical Perspectives on Race and Racism
Philosophy of Law
Philosophy of Social Science
Social and Political Philosophy

Administrative Experience:

Director of Undergraduate Studies, Department of African and African American Studies,
2006 -

Manuscript Referee:

American Political Science Review
Blackwell Publishing
Du Bois Review: Social Science Research on Race
Hackett Publishing
Harvard University Press
Oxford University Press
Prentice-Hall
Social Theory and Practice
University of Chicago Press

Professional Affiliations and Service:

Editor, *Transition*, 2006-
Senior Associate Editor, *Du Bois Review: Social Science Research on Race*, 2006-
Editorial Board, *Du Bois Review: Social Science Research on Race*, 2004 – 2006
Subject Editor (African and African American Philosophy), *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*,
2007 -
Editorial Board, *Symposia on Gender, Race and Philosophy*, 2005 -
Advisory Board, *Hiphop Archive*, Harvard University, 2002 -
Member, American Philosophical Association (Eastern Division)
Member, American Political Science Association
Member, Collegium for African American Research
Advisory Committee to the Program Committee (Africana Philosophy); American
Philosophical Association (Eastern Division), 2002-2005
Committee on Blacks in Philosophy; American Philosophical Association, 2001-2004
National Endowment for the Humanities Panelist (Philosophy); Washington, DC, July 20,
2001