

BRANDON M. TERRY

Department of African and African American Studies, Barker Center
12 Quincy Street, 2nd Floor
Cambridge, MA 02138
bterry@fas.harvard.edu

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

HARVARD UNIVERSITY

Assistant Professor of African and African American Studies and of Social Studies (2015-Present)
Member, Standing Committee on Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies (2016- Present)
Affiliate, Committee on American Studies (2016- Present)
Faculty Associate, Center for History and Economics (2015-Present)

HARVARD UNIVERSITY

Junior Prize Fellow in History, Economics, and Politics (2012-2015)

EDUCATION

YALE UNIVERSITY (2006-2012)

New Haven, CT

PhD in Political Science and African-American Studies, *University and Department Distinction*

Dissertation: “Which Way to Memphis?: Historiography, Political Theory, and the Long Civil Rights Movement” supervised by: Seyla Benhabib (Political Science and Philosophy) and Gerald Jaynes (Economics and African American Studies)

Examination Fields: Political Philosophy, Contemporary Political Theory, American Politics, Race and Politics

CORPUS CHRISTI COLLEGE, THE UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD (2005-2006)

Oxford, UK

MSc in Political Theory Research

2005-2006 Michael von Clemm Fellow

HARVARD COLLEGE (2001-2005)

Cambridge, MA

AB in Government and African and African-American Studies, *magna cum laude*

BOOKS

Editor, with Tommie Shelby, *To Shape a New World: The Political Philosophy of Martin Luther King, Jr.*, (Harvard University Press, 2018)

Editor, *Fifty Years Since MLK* (MIT Press, 2018)

PUBLICATIONS

“Stokely Carmichael and the Longing for Black Liberation: Black Power and Beyond,” in Melvin Rogers and Jack Turner, eds., *African American Political Thought* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, forthcoming)

“The Casualties of War: Taking Up King’s Fight Against Militarism,” *The Plough*, No. 16 (Spring 2018)

“Gender Trouble: Manhood, Inclusion, and Justice” (with Shatema Threadcraft) in *To Shape a New World: The Political Philosophy of Martin Luther King, Jr.*, (Harvard University Press, 2018)

“Requiem for a Dream: The Problem-Space of Black Power” in *To Shape a New World: The Political Philosophy of Martin Luther King, Jr.*, (Harvard University Press, 2018)

“MLK Now” in *Fifty Years Since MLK*, ed., Brandon M. Terry (MIT Press, 2018)

- “Insurgency and Imagination in an Age of Exhaustion: On Achille Mbembe’s *The Open Laboratory*” (*Du Bois Review*, forthcoming)
- “Rethinking the Problem of Alliance: Organized Labor and Black Political Life” (with Jason Lee), *New Labor Forum*, Volume 26, Issue 3, pp. 16-26 (September 2017)
- “[Racial Politics After Obama,](#)” *Dissent*, Vol. 63, No. 3, pp. 47-54 (Summer 2016)
- “[After Ferguson,](#)” *The Point*, no. 10 (Summer 2015)
- Honorable Mention, *Best American Essays 2016*, ed. Jonathan Franzen (New York: Houghton Mifflin, 2016)

WORKS IN PROGRESS

- The Tragic Vision of the Civil Rights Movement* (book manuscript)
- “Critical Race Theory and the Tasks of Political Philosophy: Rawls, Romance, and *The Racial Contract*”
- “On the Politics of Respectability”
- “Some Ethico-Aesthetic Problems of Civil Disobedience”
- “Fear and Fearlessness in the Ethics of the Oppressed: Gandhi, Fanon, and King”
- “Nihilism, Pessimism, and Tragic Hope: Cornel West’s ‘Black Nihilism’ Revisted”
- “Martin Delany and the Meaning of Black American Nationalism”
- “The Idea of Black-on-Black Crime”

REVIEWS

- “Liner Notes: Kendrick Lamar, *To Pimp a Butterfly*, Hip-Hop Archives and Research Institute and Loeb Music Library’s “Classic Crates Project,” <http://hiphoparchive.org/albums/to-pimp-a-butterfly> (March 2016)
- Saladin Amber, *Malcolm X at Oxford Union, Perspectives on Politics*, Vol. 14, No. 1 (March 2016), pp. 207-208
- [Highlighted Review](#) at American Political Science Association’s *Political Science Now*

FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, AND AWARDS

- Fifteen Professors of the Year, *The Harvard Crimson* (September 14, 2016)
- “The Political Philosophy of Martin Luther King, Jr.,” Provostial Fund for the Arts and Humanities (\$5,984)
- “The Political Philosophy of Martin Luther King, Jr.,” Exploratory Seminar Grant, Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study (2015-2016) (\$20,000+)
- Alex Willingham Best Political Theory Paper Award, National Conference of Black Political Scientists (2014)
- Best Paper, Foundations of Political Theory Section, American Political Science Association (2013)
- Yale University Dissertation Fellowship (2011-2012)
- Ford Foundation Predoctoral Diversity Fellowship (2007-11, deferred for one year)
- Yale Graduate Fellowship (2006-2011)
- Sterling Prize Fellowship, Yale University (2006-2009, deferred for one year)
- Andrew W. Mellon/Benjamin E. Mays Undergraduate Research Fellowship (2003-2005)
- Andrew Ramroop Prize, Harvard University (2005)
- Alain Locke Prize, Harvard University (2005)

COURSES

- Social Studies 98RA: Topics in African American Political Thought (Fall 2018)
- African and African American Studies 91r (Independent Research/Study): Hope, Nihilism, and Afro-Pessimism (Spring 2017)

History 2483a: Imagining History, Doing Politics: The Uses and Disadvantages of the Past (Fall 2016-Spring 2017)
Social Studies 10b: Introduction to Social Studies (Spring 2016)
African and African American Studies 134: African American Political Thought from Slavery to Black Power (Fall 2015)
African and African American Studies 132X: The Black Power Debates (Fall 2015)

PRESENTATIONS AND PANELS

“Nihilism, Pessimism, and Tragic Hope: Cornel West’s ‘Black Nihilism’ Revisted,” *Race Matters* at 25, Dartmouth College (July 2018)

“The Political Philosophy of Martin Luther King, Jr.,” panel discussion with Tommie Shelby and Michele Moody-Adams, Harvard Club of New York (May 2018)

“Critical Race Theory and the Tasks of Political Philosophy: Rawls and the Racial Contract”

- Stanford Political Theory Workshop (April 2018)
- UCLA Philosophy Department, Invited Lecture (February 2018)

“Martin Luther King *Now*”

- Race and Justice Speaker Series, Amherst College (April 2018)
- MLK50, Mason Temple, Memphis, Tennessee (April 2018)

“The Tragic Vision of the Civil Rights Movement: On the Long Civil Rights Movement and the Critique of Pessimism,” A Celebration of Glenda Gilmore, Yale University (April 2018)

“Casualties of War: Martin Luther King Against Militarism,” Political Science Department at the University of Memphis, Invited Lecture (April 2018)

“Requiem for a Dream: Martin Luther King and the Problem-Space of Black Power”

- African American Intellectual History Society Annual Meeting, Brandeis University (March 2018)
- Political Theory Workshop, Washington University in St. Louis (April 2017)
- Political and Moral Thought Seminar, Johns Hopkins University (March 2017)
- *The Political Philosophy of Martin Luther King, Jr.*, Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study, Harvard University (June 2016)

“On Some Ethico-Aesthetic Problems with Civil Disobedience”

- Edmund J. Safra Center Workshop (March 2018)
- Political Philosophy Workshop, Brown University (March 2018)

“Martin Luther King and Public Philosophy,” conversation with D.A. Wallach, Berggruen Institute in Los Angeles, CA (February 2018)

“Ironic History and the Politics of Pessimism in African American Thought,” American Political Science Association Annual Meeting (September 2017)

“Whiteness and Heroism”

- American Political Science Association Annual Meeting (September 2017)
- *On Whiteness* (with Claudia Rankine, Tommie Shelby, Joshua Bennett, Glenda Carpio, and Homi Bhabha), Mahindra Center, Harvard University (April 2017)

“Repression, Psychopathology, and *Ressentiment*,” *Nietzsche 13/13: Fanon and Nietzsche*, Columbia University (January 2017)

“Some Ethico-Aesthetic Problems in Civil Disobedience,” *Rethinking Civil Disobedience*, Cornell University (December 2016)

“Tragedy and the Historical Imagination: On Narrating Civil Rights,” Invited Lecture, Williams College English Department (October 2016)

Author Meets Critics, Michele Lamont’s *Getting Respect: Responding to Stigma and Discrimination in the United States, Brazil, and Israel*, Weatherhead Center, Harvard University (October 2016)

“What is African American Studies?: From Du Bois to the Present,” Invited Guest Lecture, American Studies/Music 298: “Hyphen-Nation: Graduate Seminar in General Education,” Harvard University (October 2016)

“Ordinary Lives, Extraordinary Politics: The Art of Dissent,” *Art, Popular Culture, and Civic Life Seminar*, Mahindra Humanities Center, Harvard University (May 2016)

“On Black Lives Matter,” with Chris Lebron at Yale School of Management (April 2016)

“W.E.B. Du Bois and the Kingdom of Culture,” *Yale Directed Studies Colloquium* (April 2016)

The Politics of Film: Between Imagination and Industry, Forum with “Rocky” and “Creed” Producer Irwin Winkler (April 2016)

“Police Brutality in Theory,” *Justice and the City*, Edmund J. Safra Center, Harvard University (April 2016)

“Black Lives Mattering,” *Harvard Thinks Global: A World in Crisis*, Sanders Theater, Harvard University (March 2016)

“Rawls, Race, and Romance,” *Faculty Seminar on Race*, Dartmouth College (March 2016)

“The Dangerous Road Before Black Lives Matter,” *Race, Democracy, and Public Policy in America: From LBJ’s Great Society to Barack Obama and Black Lives Matter*, University of Texas at Austin (February 2016)

Respondent to Achille Mbembe, “The Open Laboratory: South Africa’s Fanonian Moment,” Center for African Studies, Harvard University (February 2016)

“A Conversation on *Between the World and Me*,” discussion with Ta-Nehisi Coates, sponsored by the Association of Black Harvard Women, Harvard University (November 2015)

“#BlackLivesMatter in Historical Perspective” with Elizabeth Hinton, Evelyn Higginbotham, and Walter Johnson, Harvard University (November 2015)

“Race, Culture, and Politics Post-Ferguson,” with Ingrid Monson and Elizabeth Hinton, Harvard College (November 2015)

“The Dangerous Road Before Black Lives Matter,” Politics of Race and Ethnicity Forum, Harvard Institute of Politics, Harvard Kennedy School (November 2015)

Keynote Speaker, Mellon-Mays Undergraduate Fellowship 2015-2016 Inaugural, Harvard College (September 2015)

Identity, Power, and the Left, Institute of Politics Forum with Noam Chomsky, at the Harvard Kennedy School (September 2015)

Author Meets Critics: Alex Gourevitch's *From Slavery to the Cooperative Commonwealth*, with Alex Gourevitch and Aziz Rana, Watson Center, Brown University (September 2015)

"What is Black Political Thought?," Black Political Thought: Past and Present, University of California Los Angeles (May 2015)

"On the Economy," Conference for the Study of Political Thought, Yale University (May 2015)

"Social Justice for Women of Color," Association of Black Harvard Women, Harvard College (April 2015)

"On *Selma*," discussion panel with Peniel Joseph and Lisa Coleman, Harvard Kennedy School (March 2015)

"Ferguson and Hip-hop Activism: Game On," discussion panel with Tef Poe and Walter Johnson, Hip-hop Archive and Research Institute and Charles Warren Center for American History (December 2014)

"The Modern Black Male Athlete: Race, Justice, and Sports," discussion panel with Richard Sherman, Domonique Foxworth, Arian Foster, and Larry Fitzgerald, Harvard College (April 2014)

"Race, Film, and Culture," discussion panel with Wesley Morris and Kellie Carter Jackson, The Institute of Politics at the John F. Kennedy, Jr. Forum at the Harvard Kennedy School (April 2014)

"Critical Race Theory and the Tasks of Political Philosophy: On Rawls and the Racial Contract,"

- Annual Conference of the National Conference of Black Political Scientists, Wilmington, DE (March 2014)
- Dartmouth College Political Theory Workshop (February 2014)
- Columbia University Political Theory Workshop (December 2013)

"Irony and Its Politics in Civil Rights Historiography,"

- University of California, Los Angeles Political Theory Workshop, co-sponsored by the Center for the Study of Race, Ethnicity, and Politics (March 2014)
- Radical Thought on the Margins: Princeton and Cornell Political Theory Reading Group Conference, Ithaca, NY (October 2013)

"Political Theory and the Historiography of the Civil Rights Movement: Exemplarity, Narrative, Judgment," Center for History and Economics, Harvard University (November 2013)

"A Letter from a Birmingham Jail: A 50th Anniversary Panel Discussion" with Lani Guinier, Diane McWhorter, and Jonathan Bruno, Lowell House, Harvard University (April 2013)

"Revisiting the 'Racial Contract,'" Roundtable Panel on Charles W. Mills' *The Racial Contract*, 2013 Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, Chicago, IL (August 2013)

"Exemplarity and Excavation: Narrative, Political Theory, and the Civil Rights Movement," Political Thought and Historical Imagination Conference, International Conference for the Study of Political Thought, Yale University (March 2013)

"The Allure and Authority of African-American History," Invited Lecture, Harvard Black Students' Association Black History Month Celebration (February 2013)

“The Tragic Vision of the Civil Rights Movement”

- Program on Economics, History, and Politics, Harvard University (February 2013)
- 2012 Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, Panel on Social Movements, New Orleans, LA (August 2012 – canceled)
- Invited Lecture, Amherst College, Political Science Department and American Studies Department (December 2011)
- Invited Lecture, University of Chicago, Political Science Department (November 2011)
- Invited Lecture, Yale University, Political Science and African American Studies Departments (November 2011)
- Invited Lecture, Cornell University, Government Department (October 2011)
- Invited Lecture, University of Delaware, Political Science Department (October 2011)

“HBO’s *The Wire*: Philosophy, Politics, Aesthetics,” Invited Lecture, Tufts University, Medford, MA (April 2011)

“Which Way to Memphis?: The Civil Rights Movement in Historiography and Political Theory”

- Yale University Political Theory Workshop, New Haven, CT (March 2011)
- Endeavors: Perspectives on Black Life and Culture, Yale University, New Haven, CT (October 2011)

“Obama and the Crisis of Authority in Black Political Life” Invited Lecture, Stonehill College, Easton, MA (February 2010)

“The Wire @ Harvard: Lessons for Politics and Policy,” a forum with William Julius Wilson, Lawrence D. Bobo, Sonja Sohn, Michael K. Williams, and Andre Royo, sponsored by the Boston Foundation, the Ella J. Baker House, and the Department of African and African American Studies, Harvard University (October 2009)

“On Fear and Fearlessness in Gandhi and Fanon”

- 2009 Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, Panel on Comparative Political Theory, Toronto, ON, Canada (September 2009)
- Global Nonviolence International Conference, Mahatma Gandhi Center for Global Nonviolence, James Madison University, Harrisonburg, VA (April 2009)
- New York State Political Science Association Annual Conference, Political Theory Section on Political Violence; John Jay College in New York, New York (April 2009)
- Graduate Conference in Political Theory, Harvard University, (November 2007)

“Has Our Nation Moved Beyond Race?,” a panel with Frank Rich, David Frum, Jennifer Hochschild, and Frederick Harris, sponsored by the Harvard Black Alumni Society—New York Chapter and the Harvard Alumni Association; Harvard Club of New York (March 2009)

“Election 2008: Race, Ethics, and Politics—Where Do We Go From Here?,” a panel with David Mayhew, Avril Clarke, and Denise Khor, hosted by YALEVOTES!, and co-sponsored by the Yale College Council, the African American Cultural Center, NAACP, La Casa, Native American Cultural Center, Asian American Cultural Center, and Ivy Council; Yale University (October 2008)

“Mezcla: African American and Latino Politics,” a discussion hosted by YALEVOTES! and La Casa Cultural; Yale University (October 2008)

“Sunday Brunch Lecture,” Yale Black Men’s Union; Yale University (October 2008)

- “The Road to the White House: Race, Class, and Ethics in the 2008 Presidential Election,” a panel discussion hosted by YALEVOTES!, co-sponsored by The Yale College Democrats, the Yale chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, and the Black Graduate Network; Yale University (October 2008)
- “From Garbage Workers to Thug Life: What the Black Freedom Movement Means,” Pan African Leadership Summit to Commemorate the 40th Anniversary of the Assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr., Mason Temple, Memphis, TN (April 2008)
- “Understanding America: African American Experiences,” Organization for International Students and Scholars, Yale University (February 2008)
- “Is Hip-Hop Still Good For Black America?: Black Culture and Its Impact on the Community”, a panel with Damon Dash, Tricia Rose, and Rev. Eugene Rivers, The Institute of Politics at the John F. Kennedy, Jr. Forum at the Harvard Kennedy School, (February 2008)
- “On the Turn to Diversity in American Politics and Culture,” American Politics Graduate Colloquium, Yale University, (November 2007)
- “What is the ‘Power’ in Black Power?: Black Power Political Theory and the Philosophy of Hannah Arendt,” Philosophy/Religion Academic Exchange Session at the 2007 Conference of Ford Fellows, University of California, Irvine (October 2007)
- "You 'Talkin' Loud, But You Ain't Sayin' Nothin'?: Race and Racism in a Hip-Hop Age," invited lecture to the Oxford Hive, the Oxford Left Forum, and the Oxford Afro-Caribbean Society at Corpus Christi College, University of Oxford (January 2007)
- "On Authenticity and Identity," Yale Political Philosophy Colloquium (October 2006)
- "What's Race Got To Do With It? (And Me?): A Conversation on Race, Nation, and Obligation in the 21st Century," Inaugural Lecture of the Joint Political Discussion Series for Oxford Afro-Caribbean Society, Students of Oxford's Caribbean Association, and the Oxford Africa Society (May 2006)

SERVICE

- Planning Committee for Angela Y. Davis Conference at Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study (2018-2019)
- Faculty Advisory Committee, Edmund J. Safra Center (2018-2021)
- Advisory Board and Art Committee Board, MLKBoston (2017-Present)
- Non-Resident Tutor in African and African American Studies, Social Studies, and Government, Lowell House Senior Common Room (2015- present)
- Mellon/Mays Fellowship Mentor (2014-Present)
- University Advisor, Harvard Black Students' Association (2013 - present)
- University Advisor, Harvard Black Men's Forum (2015-present)
- Institute of Politics Research Assistant Program (2016)
- Diversity, (in)Equality, and Social Justice Undergraduate Research Conference Judge (April 2016)
- Featured Speaker, Uncommon Fare Faculty Dinner Series for First-Year Students (April 2016)
- Harvard College Working Group on Diversity and Inclusion (2014-2016)
- Resident Tutor in Government, Social Studies, African and African American Studies, and Fellowships, Lowell House, Harvard University (2012- 2015)
- President, Alumni Board, Harvard Black Men's Forum (2009- 2013)
- Board of Trustees, Baltimore BORN (Boys Opportunity and Resource Network) (2009-2012)

- Committee Member, Young Professionals for the Harlem Children's Zone (2009-2011)
- Founder and Co-Chair, *Endeavors: Perspectives on Black Life & Culture – An African American Studies Colloquium* at Yale University (2007-2009)
- Fellow, Yale University Office for Diversity and Equal Opportunity (2007-2009)
- Graduate Advisor, Yale Black Men's Union (2007-2009)
- Editorial Board, *Maroon: Yale Journal of African-American Studies* (2007-2008)
- Hosting Committee, 2006 Harvard Black Alumni Weekend: Roots and Revision (2006)
- Intern, African-American National Biography Project, W.E.B. DuBois Institute for African and African American Research/Oxford University Press (2005)

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS AND UNIVERSITY AFFILIATIONS

American Political Science Association
 Association for Political Theory
 National Conference of Black Political Scientists
 Hutchins Center for African and African American Research
 Hiphop Archive and Research Institute, Harvard University
 Weatherhead Center for International Affairs

MANUSCRIPT REFEREE

DuBois Review: Social Science Research on Race
PoLAR: Political and Legal Anthropology Review