

TOMMIE SHELBY

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Harvard University
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Education:

Ph.D. in Philosophy, University of Pittsburgh, 1998
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-
Mellon Distinguished Visiting Professor, University of the Witwatersrand, Spring 2010
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:

Africana 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: 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).

Peer Reviewed Journal Articles

- "The Ethics of Uncle Tom's Children," *Critical Inquiry* (forthcoming).
- "Justice, Work, and the Ghetto Poor," *Law & Ethics of Human Rights* (forthcoming).

- "Reflections on Boxill's *Blacks and Social Justice*," *Journal of Social Philosophy* 41 (Fall 2010): 343-353.
- "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.

Book Chapters and Journal Symposia

- "Reparations, Leadership, and Democracy: A Comment on Balfour and Gooding-Williams," *Du Bois Review* 8:2 (2011): 395-399.
- "Race" in *The Oxford Handbook of Political Philosophy*, ed. David Estlund (Oxford: Oxford University Press, forthcoming).
- "Justice and Racial Conciliation: Two Visions," *Daedalus* 140 (Winter 2011): 95-107.
- "White Supremacy and Black Solidarity: David Walker's *Appeal*" in *A New Literary History of America*, ed. Greil Marcus and Werner Sollors (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2009).
- "Racism, Identity, and Latinos: Comment on Linda Martín Alcoff," *Southern Journal of Philosophy* 47 (2009): 129-136. (Spindel Symposium on Race, Racism, and Liberalism).
- "Race, Culture, and Black Self-Determination" in *Pragmatism, Nation, and Race: Community in the Age of Empire*, ed. Chad Kautzer and Eduardo Mendieta (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2009).
- "Comment on Glenn Loury" in Glenn C. Loury, *Race, Incarceration, and American Values* (Cambridge, Mass.: MIT Press, 2008).
- "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* 72 (2004): 1697-1714. (Symposium on John Rawls and the Law)

Other Publications

- "From Africa to the 'Global Black': An Interview with Wole Soyinka," *Transition* 106 (2011): 34-44.
- "Cosmopolitanism, Blackness, and Utopia: An Interview with Paul Gilroy," *Transition* 98 (2008): 116-135.
- "A Misdiagnosis of the Problem: Comment on Walter Benn Michaels," *Chronicle of Higher Education* 53 (December 2006).
- "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:

Senior Scholar in Ethics, Safra Center for Ethics, Harvard University, 2009-2010
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:

"Black Solidarity and Class Division," Penn Program on Democracy, Citizenship, and Constitutionalism; University of Pennsylvania; Philadelphia, PA; April 29, 2011.

"Commentary on Gooding-Williams, *In the Shadow of Du Bois*"; Roundtable on Philosophy and Race; University of Kansas; October 29, 2010.

“Reparations, Leadership, and Democracy,” American Political Science Association; Washington, DC; September 4, 2010.

“Injustice and Oppression as Paradigms for Social Critique,” American Political Science Association; Washington, DC; September 3, 2010.

“Justice, Work, and the Ghetto Poor”

- American Political Science Association; Seattle, WA; September 1, 2011.
- Political Theory Workshop; University of Virginia; Charlottesville, VA; March 25, 2011.
- Conference on Rights and Reciprocity; Center for Law and Business; Tel Aviv, Israel; January 6, 2011.
- Political Theory Workshop; Stanford University; Stanford, CA; May 7, 2010.
- Justice, Welfare, and Economics Program; Harvard University; Cambridge, MA; February 4, 2010.
- American Philosophical Association (Eastern); New York, NY; December 29, 2009.
- Center for Ethics; Harvard University; Cambridge, MA; December 8, 2009.

“Justice, Self-Respect, and the Culture of Poverty”

- Department of Philosophy; University of Michigan; Ann Arbor, MI; November 4, 2011.
- Department of Philosophy; Michigan State University; East Lansing, MI; September 23, 2011.
- Race and Culture Workshop; Harvard University; Cambridge, MA; March 11, 2011.
- Political Theory Workshop; Yale University; New Haven, CT; February 23, 2011.
- Conference on Justice, Charity, and Poverty; University of the Witwatersrand; Johannesburg, South Africa; March 12, 2010.
- Department of Philosophy; University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; Chapel Hill, NC; January 15, 2010.
- Center for Ethics; Harvard University; Cambridge, MA; December 1, 2009.
- Harris Lecture; Department of Philosophy; Miami University; Oxford, OH; October 22, 2009.
- Conference on Justice and the American Metropolis; Washington University; St. Louis, MO; May 8-9, 2009.

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

- Department of African American Studies; Yale University; New Haven, CT; February 23, 2011.
- Department of Philosophy; University of Cape Town; Cape Town, South Africa; March 16, 2010.
- Department of Philosophy; University of the Witwatersrand; Johannesburg, South Africa; March 11, 2010.
- Horowitz Memorial Lecture; Department of Philosophy; University of Pittsburgh; Pittsburgh, PA; April 24, 2009.
- Department of Philosophy; Northwestern University; Evanston, IL; March 13, 2009.
- Department of Philosophy; Vanderbilt University; Nashville, TN; October 10, 2008.
- 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.

“Racism, Identity, and Latinos: A Comment on Alcoff”; Spindel Symposium on Race, Racism, and Liberalism; The University of Memphis; Memphis, TN; September 27, 2008.

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; 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”

- Department of Philosophy; University of the Witwatersrand; Johannesburg, South Africa; March 4, 2010.
- Department of Philosophy; Miami University; Oxford, OH; October 23, 2009.
- American Studies Program; Cornell University; Ithaca, NY; November 14, 2008.
- 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
Punishment and Social Justice
Race and Social Justice
Social and Political Philosophy
W. E. B. Du Bois: Social and Political Writings

Administrative Experience:

Director of Undergraduate Studies, Department of African and African American Studies, 2006 – 2009, 2011 -

Manuscript Referee:

American Political Science Review

Blackwell Publishing

Du Bois Review: Social Science Research on Race

Hackett Publishing

Harvard University Press

Journal of Philosophical Research

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

Executive Committee, American Philosophical Association (Eastern Division), 2010 -

Subject Editor (African and African American Philosophy), *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*, 2007 –

Editorial Board, *Southern Journal of Philosophy*, 2009 -

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