

MELVIN L. ROGERS
EDNA AND RICHARD SALOMON DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR

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Current Positions

Edna and Richard Salomon Distinguished Professor

• Political Science • Brown University	2024-Present
Professor • Political Science • Brown University	2023-2024

Co-Director • Democracy Project

2022-Present

Associate Director • Center for Philosophy, Politics, and Economics

2022-2025

Visiting Fellow • Center for Ethics • Emory University (non-residential)

2025-2026

Visiting Research Fellow • School of Civic Life and Leadership

• University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (non-residential)

2025-2026

Previous Positions

Knapp Chair of Liberal Arts • University of San Diego

Spring 2025

James W. C. Pennington Distinguished Fellow • Center for American Studies • Heidelberg University

Summer 2023

Associate Professor • Political Science • Brown University

2016-2022

Director of Graduate Studies • Political Science

2020-2021

Scott Waugh Associate Professor • Political Science

• African American Studies • University of California, Los Angeles

2014-2016

Assistant Professor • Philosophy • Emory University

2012-2014

Assistant Professor • Politics • University of Virginia

2007-2012

Distinguished Visiting Scholar • Kluge Center at the Library of Congress

Summer 2019

Visiting Assistant Professor • Department of Political Science

• Swarthmore College

2010-2011

Scholar-In-Residence • Department of Political Science • Carleton College

2005-2007

Education

Ph.D/M.Phil • **Yale University** • Political Science

2006/2004

Exchange Student • **Princeton University** • Department of Religion

2004-2005

M.Phil. • **University of Cambridge** • Political Thought and Intellectual History

2000

Core Research Interests

- Broad Areas: History of Political Thought; American Political Thought; African American Political Thought
- Focused Areas: Republicanism; Democratic Theory; Race and Inequality; David Walker; John Dewey; W. E. B. Du Bois; James Baldwin

Books

1. ***The Darkened Light of Faith: Race, Democracy, and Freedom in African American Political Thought*** (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2023; pb. 2025), 400 pages
Winner: David Easton Award, Foundations of Political Theory of American Political Science Association
Winner: Ralph J. Bunche Award, American Political Science Association
Winner: Best Book Award, American Political Thought Section of American Political Science Association
2. ***The Undiscovered Dewey: Religion, Morality, and the Ethos of Democracy*** (New York: Columbia University Press, 2009; Pb., October, 2012), 328 pages

Works-In-Progress

Beyond Origin Stories: Democratic Faith and Its Burden (Introduction, Chapters 1 and 2 complete; Final Chapter 3 in development)

Abstract: This book examines how American democratic life is governed by narratives of origin that seek moral clarity by anchoring political meaning in the nation's founding—whether through celebratory appeals to founding virtue or critical accounts of constitutive violence. The book argues that such origin stories deform democratic life not because the founding is irrelevant, but because treating it as destiny displaces responsibility from the present and narrows the space of democratic judgment. Against both pessimistic and romantic readings of the American founding, it advances an alternative orientation—democratic faith—understood as an ethical and spiritual commitment to freedom and equality as ongoing tasks rather than inherited achievements secured by founders, institutions, or outcomes. Drawing on American political thought and culminating in a reflection on Mamie Till-Mobley's public witness, the book shows how democratic faith sustains political agency amid domination, disappointment, and institutional failure through virtues such as courage, openness, perceptual sensitivity, and humility. The argument is not a rejection of the founding or of history, but a rethinking of how they should function in democratic life—without redemption, guarantees, or the surrender of the burden of freedom.

Ethos and Evolution: W. E. B. Du Bois and the Making of Modern Political Thought (Early-Stage Book Project)

Abstract: This book traces Du Bois's effort to understand how racial domination distorts both the cultural ethos of modern life and the democratic promise it claims to uphold. Resisting efforts to divide his work into discrete periods, it shows how Du Bois persistently asked two questions: What are the defining features of Black under modernity, and how do they interact with the institutional and moral life of the "West"? Through close readings of *The Souls of Black Folk* (1903), *Darkwater* (1920), and *Dusk of Dawn* (1940), the book reconstructs a continuous philosophical project—one that shifts from concern with political and cultural life of the United States to the global political economy while maintaining a singular concern with modernity's deformation of democracy life. Throughout, Du Bois remains preoccupied with the kinds of people we become.

The Burden of Freedom: James Baldwin and the Turmoil of Modern Identity (Early-Stage Book Project)

Abstract: This book explores James Baldwin's writings as a sustained meditation on the existential burden of freedom in modern American democratic life. Moving beyond standard treatments of Baldwin as a commentator on race and national identity, it argues that his work is animated by a deeper concern: how the human drive for security, mastery, and innocence leads to the formation of rigid identities that shield us from the anxiety of freedom, but in doing so, deform our moral and political lives. At the heart of Baldwin's thought is the claim that American liberal democracy rests on a spiritual and cultural evasion—a refusal to confront the tragic, uncertain, and unredeemed dimensions of freedom. Drawing on Baldwin's essays and fiction, and placing him in dialogue with figures such as Reinhold Niebuhr, Richard Wright, Albert Camus, and Toni Morrison, the book reconstructions Baldwin's vision of democratic life as an ethical and perceptual practice—requiring courage, love, and the willingness to see ourselves and others without illusions.

Edited Books

1. **Co-Editor, *African American Political Thought: A Collected History* (with Jack Turner) (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2021), 808 pages**

Includes: Introduction; 30 Chapters on Figures in African American Political Thought

2. **Editor, *John Dewey, The Public and Its Problems* (Swallow Press/Ohio University Press, 2016), 304 pages**

Includes: Annotations; Critical Introduction; Bibliographical Essay; Biographical Outline

3. **Editor, *John Dewey, The Public and Its Problems* (Pennsylvania State University Press, 2012-2015), 190 pages: Out of Print**

Includes: Annotations; Critical Introduction; Bibliographical Essay; Biographical Outline

Reviewed: Shane Ralston, *Philosophy in Review*, 34.1-2 (2014): 11-13; Eldon J. Eisenach, *American Political Thought*, 4.1 (2015): 172-176; Ava Becker, *Education and Culture*, 31.1 (2015): 101-104

Journal Issues Edited

1. ***Theory and Event***, “Ferguson and the Tragic Presence of the Past,” Supplement, 17.3 (October, 2014), with an Introduction by Melvin Rogers: “Introduction: Disposable Lives”: ONLINE http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/theory_and_event/toc/tae.17.3S.html
Essays by: Dora Apel, Utz Lars McKnight, Michelle Smith, Patchen Markell, Tommy J. Curry, Lisa L. Miller, Vesla M. Weaver, Steven Johnston, and Eddie S. Glaude Jr.
2. ***Contemporary Pragmatism***, “Revisiting *The Public and Its Problems*,” Special Issue, 7.1 (June, 2010), with an Introduction by Melvin Rogers: “Introduction: Revisiting *The Public and its Problems*,” 1-9
Essays by: James Bohman, Eric MacGilvray, Eddie S. Glaude Jr., and Melvin Rogers

Peer-Reviewed Book Chapters

1. “**Bearing Witness to Horror**,” in *Open Casket: Philosophical Meditations on the Lynching of Emmett Till*, editors George Yancy and A. Todd Franklin (Lanham, MD: Bloomsbury, 2025): 131-144
2. “**Political Theorizing in Black: An Introduction**” (with Jack Turner), in *African American Political Thought: A Collected History*, eds. Melvin Rogers and Jack Turner (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2021): 1-29
3. “**David Walker: Citizenship, Judgment, Freedom, and Solidarity**,” in *African American Political Thought: A Collected History*, eds. Melvin Rogers and Jack Turner (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2021): 52-76
4. “**Race, Domination, and Republicanism**,” in *Difference without Domination: On Justice and Democracy in Conditions of Diversity*, ed. Danielle Allen and Rohini Somanathan (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2020): 59-90
5. Reprint: “**The People, Rhetoric, and Affect: On the Political Force of Du Bois’s *The Souls of Black Folk***,” *A Political Companion to W. E. B. Du Bois*, ed. Nick Bromell (Lexington: University Press of Kentucky, 2018): 123-158
6. “**Race and the Democratic Aesthetic: Jefferson, Whitman, and Holiday on the Hopeful and the Horrific**,” Festschrift for J. Peter Euben, *Radical Future Past: Untimely Essays in Political Theory*, eds. Mark Reinhardt, George Shulman, and Rom Coles (Lexington: University of Kentucky Press, 2014): 249-282
7. “**Democracy, Piety, and Faith: A Reading of Dewey’s Religious Outlook**,” *Secular Faith*, eds. Vincent Lloyd and Elliot Ratzman (Eugene, Oregon: Cascade Books, Wipf and Stock Publishers, 2010): 126-152
Revised reprint of Chapter 3, “Faith and Democratic Piety,” of *The Undiscovered Dewey*

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

1. “**David Walker and the Political Power of the Appeal**,” *Political Theory: An International Journal of Political Philosophy*, 43.2 (April, 2015): 208-233
2. “**The People, Rhetoric, and Affect: On the Political Force of Du Bois’ *The Souls of Black Folk***,” *American Political Science Review*, 106.1 (February 2012): 188-203

3. “**The Fact of Sacrifice and Necessity of Faith: Dewey and the Ethics of Democracy**,” *Transactions of Charles S. Peirce Society: A Quarterly Journal in American Philosophy*, 47.3 (November 2011): 274-300
4. “**John Dewey and His Vision of Democracy**,” *Contemporary Pragmatism*: Special Issue, “Revisiting *The Public and Its Problems*,” 7.1 (June, 2010): 69-92
5. “**Re-reading Honneth: Exodus Politics and the Paradox of Recognition**,” *European Journal of Political Theory* 8.2 (April, 2009): 183-206
6. “**Democracy, Elites and Power: John Dewey Reconsidered**,” *Contemporary Political Theory*, 8.1 (February, 2009): 68-89
Selected for Journal’s Feature Article: Political Theory Revisited Section
Revised version of Chapter 5, “Constraining Elites and Managing Power,” of *The Undiscovered Dewey*
7. “**Republican Confusion and Liberal Clarification**,” *Philosophy and Social Criticism*, 34.7 (September, 2008): 799-824
8. “**Action and Inquiry in Dewey’s Philosophy**,” *Transactions of the Charles S. Peirce Society: A Quarterly Journal in American Philosophy*, 43.1 (2007): 90-115
9. “**Rorty’s Straussism; Or, Irony Against Democracy**,” *Contemporary Pragmatism*, 1.2 (December, 2004): 95-121
10. “**Liberalism, Narrative, and Identity: A Pragmatic Defense of Racial Solidarity**,” *Theory and Event*, 6.2 (2002): <http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/theory_&_event/>

Popular Press, Reviews, and Other Writings

1. “**Existential Liberalism: James Baldwin and the Problem of Freedom**,” March 27, 2025: <https://www.liberalcurrents.com/existential-liberalism-james-baldwin-and-the-problem-of-freedom/>
2. “**If Reinhold Niebuhr Could Speak to Us Today, What Would He Say?**,” *Liberal Currents*, February 28, 2025: <https://www.liberalcurrents.com/if-reinhold-niebuhr-could-speak-to-us-today-what-would-he-say/>
3. “**If You Wish to Know Who a Man Truly Is, Give Him Power**,” *Public Seminar*, February 25, 2025: <https://publicseminar.org/2025/02/trumps-attack-on-dei/>
4. “**An Open Letter to Kamala Harris**,” *Public Seminar*, February 13, 2025: <https://publicseminar.org/2025/02/an-open-letter-to-kamala-harris/>
5. “**What is Government**,” *A Native Son*, Guest on Eddie Glaude's Substack, February 10, 2025: <https://www.anativeson.org/p/what-is-a-government>
6. **Author Meets Critics**: “Black Individualism, Black Communalism, and Conceptual Adequacy” (with Jack Turner), *American Political Thought*, 13.1 (2024): 112-20
7. “**A Right to Paint Us Whole: W. E. B. Du Bois’ Message to African American Artists**,” *Lapham’s Quarterly*, October 4, 2023: <https://www.laphamsquarterly.org/roundtable/right-paint-us-whole>
8. “**We Should Be Afraid, But Not of the Protesters**,” *Boston Review*, May 20, 2020: ONLINE: <http://bostonreview.net/race/melvin-rogers-we-should-be-afraid-not-protesters>
9. “**Democracy is a Habit: Practice It**,” *Boston Review*, July 25, 2018: ONLINE: <http://bostonreview.net/politics/melvin-rogers-democracy-habit-practice-it>

10. "The Many Dimensions of Black Panther," *Dissent*, February 27, 2018: ONLINE: https://www.dissentmagazine.org/online_articles/marvel-black-panther-review-race-empire-tragic-heroes
11. "Keeping the Faith: Review of Ta-Nehisi Coates' *We Were Eight Years In Power*," *Boston Review*, November 1, 2017: ONLINE: <http://bostonreview.net/race/melvin-rogers-keeping-faith>
12. "White Identity and Terror in America: Thinking about the Events of Charlottesville," *Public Seminar*, August 16, 2017: ONLINE: <http://www.publicseminar.org/2017/08/white-identity-and-terror-in-america/#.We8vm62FTGI>
13. "White Supremacy, Fear and the Crises of Legitimation: Reflections on the mistrial in the murder case of Walter Scott and the election of Donald Trump," *Public Seminar*, January 1, 2017: ONLINE: <http://www.publicseminar.org/2017/01/white-supremacy-fear-and-the-crises-of-legitimation/#.WG2ifLGVRZ0>
14. "In Defense of Civility," *Dissent Magazine*, March 24, 2016: ONLINE: <https://www.dissentmagazine.org/blog/defense-of-civility-donald-trump-fear-white-supremacy>
15. "On Diamond Reynolds after Dallas," *Public Seminar*, July 8, 2016: ONLINE: <http://www.publicseminar.org/2016/07/on-diamond-reynolds-after-dallas/>
16. "What Good is History for African Americans?," *Boston Review*, May 17, 2016: ONLINE: <https://www.bostonreview.net/us/melvin-rogers-what-good-history-african-americans>
17. "Race and Dignity: Freedom Can't Be Left to Chance," *Boston Review*, December 7, 2015: ONLINE: <http://bostonreview.net/us/melvin-rogers-race-dignity>
18. Review of Ta-Nehisi Coates, *Between the World and Me* (published in long and short form):
 - Critical Exchange: "Coates is a Realists, Not a Pessimist: Lester Spence Responds to Melvin L. Rogers"; "Coates Isn't Hopeful: Melvin Rogers Responds to Lester Spence," *Dissent Magazine*, August 13, 2015: ONLINE: <http://www.dissentmagazine.org/blog/ta-nehisi-coates-isnt-hopeful-melvin-rogers-lester-spence>
 - "Between Pain and Despair: What Ta-Nehisi Is Missing," *Dissent Magazine*, July 31, 2015: ONLINE: https://www.dissentmagazine.org/online_articles/between-world-me-ta-nehisi-coates-review-despair-hope
 - *The Atlantic*, ed. Chris Bodenner, "Between the World and Me Book Club: Your Critical Thoughts," July 26, 2015: ONLINE: <http://www.theatlantic.com/national/archive/2015/07/readers-critical-between-world-me-ta-nehisi-coates/399641/>
19. "Social Equality and the Afterlife of White Supremacy," *The Contemporary Condition*, January 16, 2015: ONLINE: <http://contemporarycondition.blogspot.com/2015/01/social-equality-and-afterlife-of-white.html#links>
20. Review of *Contemporary Pragmatism, Volume 8, Issue 2, December 2011, Special Issue on "Obama and Pragmatism,"* *Transactions of Charles S. Peirce Society: A Quarterly Journal In American Philosophy*, 48.4 (2013): 558-62
21. Review of George Yancy, *Black Bodies, White Gazes*, *Journal of Speculative Philosophy*, 24.2 (2010): 192-94

22. "Dewey, Pluralism, and Democracy: A Response to Robert Talisse," *Transactions of the Charles Peirce Society: A Quarterly Journal In American Philosophy* 45.1 (June, 2009): 75-79
Symposium on Robert Talisse's *A Pragmatist Philosophy of Democracy* (Routledge, 2007)
23. "Republicanism," International Encyclopedia of the Social Sciences, 2nd edition. Ed. William A. Darity, Jr. 9 vols. (Detroit: Macmillan Reference USA, 2008): vol. 7, 188-89

Selected Media Appearances/Interviews

1. "The Declaration of Independence and the Push for Racial Equality," National Convention Center. With Lucas Morel. Moderated by Thomas Donnelly, February 2, 2026: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OcwbO2fL2uY&t=49s>
2. "The Darkened Light of Faith: Race, Democracy, and Freedom in African American Political Thought,"
 - a. [Interviewed by Lilly Goren, New Books Network, April 15, 2024](#)
 - b. [Interviewed by Siva Vaidhyanathan, Democracy in Danger, December 13, 2023](#)
 - c. [Interviewed by Jeffrey Church, The Political Theory Review, November 28, 2023](#)
 - d. [Interviewed by Clif Bailey and Zach Nerison, Love They Niebuhr, November 2023](#)
3. "A History of African American Political Thought," John W. Kluge Center, Library of Congress. With Jack Turner. Interviewed by Janna Deitz, February 22, 2021: <https://www.loc.gov/item/webcast-9696/>
4. How Do We Begin Again? James Baldwin's America and Our Own. With Eddie S. Glaude. Linfield College, September 22, 2020
5. Is Reason Overrated? Rethinking the Whole History of Western Thought. With Christia Mercer. Interviewed by June Cross, Columbia University: SPS, June 17, 2020: <https://summer.sps.columbia.edu/summer-ideas-exchange>
6. Early 19th Century Political Thought: David Walker, Maria Stewart, and Hosea Easton. Interviewed by Peter Adamson, History without Any Gaps, February 16, 2020, episode 46: <https://historyofphilosophy.net/politics-rogers>
7. Race and Democracy, Voices of America. Interviewed by Carol Castiel, Ashley Obuljen, and Jessica Von Zastrow, July, 2019: <https://www.voanews.com/episode/melvin-rogers-race-and-democracy-3941261>
8. Truth and Faith, The Democracy Test. Interviewed by Neal Conan and Heather Cox Richardson, November, 2018: <https://soundcloud.com/truth-politics-power/truth-and-faith-the-sixth-and-final-episode-of-the-democracy-test>
9. The Habits of Democracy. Interviewed by Kerri Miller and Elizabeth Stockman, *MPR*, August 20, 2018: <https://www.mprnews.org/story/2018/08/20/democracy-habits>
10. "Ta-Nehisi Coates and the End of Black Faith." Interviewed by Robert J. Benz, *Huffington Post*, December, 4, 2017: https://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/ta-nehisi-coates-and-the-end-of-black-faith_us_5a21f982e4b0545e64bf9357
11. John Dewey and the Ideal of Democracy. Interviewed by John Perry and Ken Taylor, *Philosophy Talk*, September 25, 2016: <https://soundcloud.com/philosophytalk/john-dewey-and-the-ideal-of-democracy>
12. Rare Recordings of James Baldwin. Interviewed by Brian DeShazor, *From the Vault*, July 14, 2016: <http://lfla.org/event/live-from-the-vault-rare-recordings-of-james-baldwin/>

Invited Lectures and Presentations

“Democracy and Faith in Dark Times,”

- Martin Luther King Jr. Convocation Lecture, Knox College, January 19, 2026

“James Baldwin on Racial Progress without Redemption”*

- Knapp Lecture, University of San Diego, March 5, 2025
- Baldwin 100, Claremont McKenna College, November 21, 2024
- Pancoast Lecture, Ursinus College, Department of Politics, September 16, 2024
- Stanford University, Department of Political Science, May 10, 2024
- University of Washington-Seattle, Department of Political Science, April 26, 2024
- Duke University, Department of Political Science, April 11, 2024
- Kenyon College, Department of Political Science, March 20, 2024
- Kneller Lecture, Philosophy of Education Conference, March 9, 2024
- University of Alabama, February 22, 2024
- Emory University, James Weldon Johnson Institute, February 12, 2024
- Hamilton College, January 25, 2024
- Dartmouth, Martin Luther King Jr. Keynote, January 22, 2024
- University of Notre Dame, January 19, 2024
- Princeton University, Princeton, NJ, November 9, 2023
- Boston University, Department of Political Science, October 26, 2023
- University of California-Berkeley, October 20, 2023
- Cornell University, Department of Political Science, October 5, 2023
- E. Victor Wolfenstein Memorial Lecture, UCLA, Los Angeles, CA, April 20, 2023
- Villanova University, Ethics Program, Villanova University, Villanova, PA, March 15, 2023

“Delany, Douglass, and the Danger of Political Pessimism”

- University of Massachusetts-Amherst, February 4, 2022
- St. Johns College, Annapolis, MD, November 19, 2021
- Frederick Douglass Conference, University of Richmond, Richmond, VA, September 25, 2020
- Why Douglass Matters: A Bicentennial Symposium, Linfield College, McMinnville, OR, April 27, 2018

“Thinking About Black Republicanism: An Introduction”

- Edmond and Lily Safra Center for Ethics, Harvard University, October 20, 2022
- Cambridge Contemporary Political Thought Seminar, University of Cambridge, November 20, 2020
- History of Political Ideas Seminar, Institute of Historical Research, London, November 18, 2020
- Political Philosophy Colloquium, University Center for Human Values, Princeton University, October 15, 2020

* All versions of this talk are from my book, *The Darkened Light of Faith*.

“The Darkened Light of Faith: An Introduction”

- Perelman Center for the Study of Political Science and Economics, University of Pennsylvania, October 13, 2022
- Political Theory Workshop, University of Chicago, October 11, 2021
- Political Theory Workshop, Brown University, October 7, 2021

“Calling the People to a Higher Vision: On *The Souls of Black Folk*”

- Political Theory Workshop, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY, May 5, 2022

“The Soul as the Seat of Aspiration: A Philosophical-Historical Approach”

- John L. Stanley Lecture, University of California, Riverside, CA, April 13, 2022
- Maxine and Jonathan Marshall Lecture, Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ, March 21, 2022
- *Plenary*: The Britain and Ireland Association for Political Thought, University of Oxford, UK, December 6, 2022

“Democratic Faith in Dark Times”

- Pearsons-Chamber Lecture, Department of Political Science, University of California-San Diego, CA, April 29, 2021
- “The Orators,” Honors College, Mississippi State University, Starkville, MS, February 20, 2019

“The Spectacle of Lynching Redeployed: On the Performance of Democratic Regard”

- Robert T. Harris Memorial Lecture, Miami University, Oxford, OH, September 26, 2019
- Media Ethics Speakers Series, University of Texas-Austin, TX, April 9, 2019

“Race, Domination, and Republicanism”

- The Ethics Project, University of Texas-Austin, TX, April 8, 2019
- Victoria Colloquium, University of Victoria, Victoria, BC, March 8, 2019
- Philosophy Colloquium, Philosophy Department, Emory University, Atlanta, GA, January 24, 2019
- Politics Across Borders Series, Political Science, Yale University, New Haven, CT, September 13, 2018
- American Political Science Association, Boston, MA, August 31, 2018
- *Keynote*: Ida B. Wells Philosophical Conference, Philosophy Department, University of Memphis, Memphis, TN, April, 2018

“Running Ahead of the Evidence: A Meditation on Delany’s Pessimism and Douglass’

Faith”

- Rethinking the Black Intellectual Tradition: Pessimism as an Interpretative Frame, Amherst College, Amherst, MA, March 30, 2019

“Democracy in Dark Times: Keeping the Faith in the Face of White Supremacy”

- Annual Undergraduate Lecture, Philosophy Department, University of Oregon, Eugene, OR, April 11, 2018

“The People’s Two Bodies: Toward a Reading of W. E. B. Du Bois’ *The Souls of Black Folk*”

- Philosophy Workshop, University of Oregon, Eugene, OR, April 12, 2018
- Political Theory Workshop, Columbia University, New York, NY, January 24, 2018

“Being a Slave of the Community: Democratic-Republicanism and Racialized Domination”

- Political Theory Workshop, Yale University, New Haven, CT, November 29, 2017
- Political Theory Workshop, Georgetown University, Washington, DC, September 21, 2017

- Political Theory Workshop, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, WI, January 20, 2017

“Is Liberal Democracy Our Future”

- “Crises of Democracy: Thinking in Dark Times” Conference, Annadale-On-Hudson, NY, October 12-13, 2017

“Democratic Faith: Thomas Jefferson, the People, and Early Black Politics”

- Constitution Day Lecture, Hamilton College, Clinton, NY, October 18, 2017

“My Judgment Makes Me Political: David Walker’s Transformative Appeal,”

- Lecture, Department of Religion, Brown University, Providence, RI, October 19, 2016

“Race and Republicanism: Reflections on Early African-American Political Thought,”

- Political Theory Workshop, University of California-Irvine, Irvine, CA, April 29, 2016

- *Keynote*: Law and Philosophy Conference, University of California-Los Angeles, Los Angeles,

CA, April 10, 2016

“The Demandingness of Freedom: Walker and Racial Domination,”

- Political Philosophy Workshop, Brown University, Providence, RI, October 20, 2016
- Political Theory Workshop, Stanford University, Stanford, CA, November 13, 2015
- Political Theory Workshop, Washington University, St. Louis, MO, October 30, 2015
- Political Theory Workshop, Yale University, New Haven, CT, September 16, 2015
- Workshop in Law, Philosophy, and Political Theory, UC-Berkeley, Berkeley, CA, September 11, 2015

- The Society for the Study of Africana Philosophy, New York, NY, March 15, 2015

- Political Theory Workshop, University of Chicago, Chicago, IL, March 10, 2015

“David Walker,”

- African American Political Thought: Past and Present Conference, Seattle, WA, April, 2014

“Performing One’s Dignity: Walker, Race, and the Rhetorical Re-founding of the Republic,”

- American Academy of Religion, Baltimore, MD, November 2013
- Philosophy Born of Struggle Conference, West Lafayette, IN, October 2013
- American Political Science Association, Chicago, IL, August 2013
- Series on Political Philosophy in Atlanta, Morehouse College, Atlanta, GA, February 27, 2013

“Race and the Democratic Aesthetic: Jefferson, Whitman, and Holiday on the Hopeful and the Horrific,”

- Western Political Science Association, Hollywood, CA, March 2013
- Philosophy Colloquium, Emory University, Atlanta, GA, November 16, 2012

“From Saints to Citizens: Abolitionist Rhetoric and Democratic Faith,”

- The Racial Saint: Marked Flesh, Holy Flesh Conference, Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY, December, 2011

“Race and Democracy,”

- Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy Conference, Philadelphia, PA, October, 2011

“The People, Rhetoric, and Affect: On the Political Force of Du Bois’ *The Souls of Black Folk*,”

- Philosophy Department, Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA, February, 2012

- Political Science, University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, AL, November 10, 2011
- WISER Distinguished Lecture, University of Washington, Seattle, WA, October 10, 2011
- Political Science, University of Maryland, College Park, April 8, 2011
- Political Science, Law and Society Series, Rutgers University, March 25, 2011
- Political Science, Amherst College, Amherst, MA, February 8, 2011
- Works-in-Progress Series: Political Theory Colloquium, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY, October 22, 2010
- Political Science, University of Vermont, Burlington, VT, October 14, 2010
- Jefferson Society, University of Virginia, September 24, 2010
- American Political Science Conference, Washington, DC, September, 2010
- Political Science, Bowdoin College, Brunswick, ME, April 14, 2010
- Affect, Imagination, and Democratic Values Conference, University of Virginia, April, 2010

“Pragmatism and Democratic Faith”

- Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy Conference, Arlington, VA, October, 2009

“The Fact of Sacrifice and Necessity of Faith: Dewey, Maine, and the Ethics of Democracy”

- American Studies Conference, Washington, DC, October, 2009
- Political Science, Works-in-Progress Colloquia, MIT, Cambridge, MA, March 5, 2009
- Political Science, William and Mary, Williamsburg, VA, April 3, 2009
- University of Virginia, Institute for Advanced Studies in Culture, Charlottesville, VA, April 10, 2009
- Philosophy, University of Oregon, Eugene, OR, April 30, 2009

“The Limits of Sympathy: Grisham, Du Bois, Tocqueville and the Habits of Race Prejudice”

- Association for Political Theory Conference, Wesleyan University, Middletown, CT, October, 2008

“Two Iterations on a Theme: Sympathy and Race”

- American Philosophies Forum, “Words, Bodies, War,” Nashville, TN, April, 2008

“Dewey, Pluralism, and Democracy: A Response to Robert Talisse”

- Pacific American Philosophical Association Meeting, Pasadena, CA, March, 2008

“Democracy, Elites, and Power: Dewey Reconsidered”

- American Political Science Conference, Philadelphia, PA, September, 2006

“Dewey’s Neo-Aristotelianism”

- Political Theory Workshop, Yale University, New Haven, CT, December, 2005

“Faith and Democratic Piety”

- Political Theory Workshop, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN, October, 2005

“Rorty, Strauss, and Irony”

- Northeastern Political Science Conference, Philadelphia, PA, November, 2003

“Liberalism and Identity: A Pragmatic Defense of Racial Solidarity”

- New School University Conference, “Crisis and Opportunity: Rethinking the Political,” New York, NY, May, 2002

“Dewey, Democracy, and the Fragility of Deliberation”

- American Political Science Conference, San Francisco, CA, September, 2001

Author Meets Critics

1. **The Darkened Light of Faith: Race, Democracy, and Freedom in African American Political Thought:**
Participants: Joseph Winters, Shatema Threadcraft, Lisa Beard
Watson School of International and Public Affairs, Brown University, May, 2024
2. **The Undiscovered Dewey and William James on Ethics and Faith (by Michael Slater)**
Participants: John Stuhr, Stuart Rosenbaum, Randy Friedman
American Academy of Religion Annual Conference, Atlanta, GA, October, 2010
3. **The Undiscovered Dewey**
Participants: Rogers Smith, Jim Johnson, Robert Peppermen Taylor, Eric MacGilvray
Annual Canadian Political Science Conference, Montreal, Canada, June, 2010

Conferences Organized

1. **Seeing Beyond the Veil: Race-ing Key Concepts in Political Theory**, Brown, Providence, RI, November 8-9, 2018 (with Juliet Hooker)
2. **Race and the Imagination in African American Political Thought**, UCLA, Los Angeles, CA, April, 2017
3. **African American Political Thought: Past and Present**, UCLA, Los Angeles, CA, May 14-17, 2015
4. **Political Theory and Aesthetics**, Western Political Science Conference, Hollywood, CA, March, 2013
5. **Affect, Imagination, and Democratic Values**, University of Virginia, April, 2010

Fellowships and Awards

<i>James W. C. Pennington Award</i> • Heidelberg Center for American Studies and Faculty of Theology • University of Heidelberg	2023
<i>President's Award for Excellence in Faculty Governance</i> • Brown University	2022
<i>Center for the Study of Race and Ethnicity in America Faculty Fellowship</i> • Brown University	2017-2018
<i>Safra Center Ethics Fellowship</i> • Harvard University, Declined	2015-2016
<i>Sesquicentennial Fellowship</i> • University of Virginia	2010-2011
<i>Summer Grant</i> • University of Virginia	Summer 2009
<i>Consortium for Faculty Diversity at Liberal Arts College Fellowship</i>	2005-2007
<i>John F. Enders Fellowship</i> • Yale University,	Summer, 2005
<i>Dissertation Fellowship</i> • Yale University	2004-2005
<i>Memorial Fellowship</i> • Amherst College	2003-2004
<i>Ford Foundation Predoctoral Fellowship</i>	1999-2002
<i>Keasbey Memorial Foundation Scholarship</i> • Cambridge • Selwyn College	1999-2000
<i>Ralph J. Bunche Fellowship</i> • University of Virginia	Summer, 1998

Editorial and Professional Participation

Book Review Editor, <i>Political Theory: An International Journal of Political Philosophy</i>	2015-2020
Editorial Board Member, <i>Journal of Speculative Philosophy</i>	2022-Present
Editorial Board Member, <i>American Political Science Review</i>	2020-2024
Editorial Board Member, <i>Polity</i>	2020-2024
Editorial Board Member, <i>Contemporary Pragmatism</i>	2017-Present

American Political Science Association

- Co-Chair: Division 2: Foundation of Political Theory
- Member, Foundations of Political Thought Committee
- Co-Chair: Division 1: Political Thought and Philosophy

Conference for the Study of Political Thought

- Spitz Prize Committee Member

2016-2019

Andrew W. Mellon Foundation

- Sawyer Seminar Selection Committee

2020-2022

Administrative Service

Brown University and Department of Political Science

- Director of Graduate Studies, 2020-2021
- Vice-Chair: Committee on Nominations, 2022-Present; Chair, 2023-2025
- Member: Gifts and Grants Advisory Committee to the President, 2022-2025
- Member: Advisory Committee on University Resources Management, 2021-2024
- Member: Committee on Faculty Equity and Diversity Board, 2018-2021
- Member: Diversity and Inclusion Oversight Board, 2017-2020

UCLA and Departments of African American Studies and Political Science

- Member: Executive Committee, Department of Political Science, 2015-2017
- Faculty Coordinator: Political Theory Workshop, Department of Political Science, 2015-2017
- Member: Admissions Committee, Department of African American Studies, 2015-2016
- Member: University of California President's Faculty Fellowship Committee, 2015-2016
- Member: Interim Governance Committee, Department of African American Studies, 2015
- Member: Executive Committee, Department of African American Studies, 2014-2016
- Member: Admissions Committee, Department of Political Science, 2014-2015
- Member: Peer Review Committee on Teaching, Department of Political Science, 2014-2015

Emory University and Department of Philosophy

- Member: Department Graduate Studies Committee, 2013-2014
- Member: Laney Graduate School Appointments Committee, 2013-2014
- Member: Department Colloquium Committee, 2012-2014

- Member: Law, Ethics, and Society Search Committee, 2012-2013

University of Virginia and Department of Politics

- Member: Dean Ad-Hoc Department Chair Search Committee, Fall, 2009
- Faculty Coordinator: Political Theory Colloquium, 2008-2010
- Member: Carter G. Woodson Pre- and Post-Doctoral Fellowship Committee, 2008-2009
- Member: Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, Department of Politics, 2007-2010
- Member: African-American Studies Curriculum Committee, Carter G. Woodson Institute: 2007-2010