

# Committee on the Status of Black Philosophers

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## *2016–2017 Membership*

Julie Maybee, chair (2019)

Nathaniel A. Coleman (2017)

Lee A. McBride III (2017)

Gilbert N. Morris (2017)

Rodmon King (2018)

Lucius T. Outlaw Jr. (2018)

Dwayne A. Tunstall, newsletter editor (2018)

Myisha V. Cherry (2019)

Lewis R. Gordon (2019)

Keisha S. Ray (2019)

Stephen C. Ferguson II, newsletter editor

ANNUAL REPORT  
COMMITTEE ON THE STATUS OF BLACK PHILOSOPHERS  
2016-2017

**Sessions/events sponsored or co-sponsored at APA meetings:**

***Eastern Division:***

*Women of Color Feminism*

Co-sponsored by the Committee on the Status of Women

Naomi Zack  
University of Oregon  
"Plunder Theory: Beyond the Metaphysical Binary of Race or Gender"

Joy James  
F.C. Oakley 3rd Century Professor  
Williams College  
"The Quartet in the Political Persona of Ida B. Wells"

Tommy J. Curry  
Texas A&M University  
"On Mimesis and Men: The Ethnological Origins of the Primal Rapist"

Celena Simpson  
University of Oregon  
"The Questions of Feminism in the Age of #BlackLivesMatter"

*Philosophy of the City—in Color*

Co-sponsored by the Philosophy of the City Research Group

Chair: Shane Epting (University of Nevada, Las Vegas)

Lewis Gordon (University of Connecticut–Storrs)  
"A Philosophical Anthropology of Decolonizing Race in the City"

Eduardo Mendieta (Pennsylvania State University)  
"Edge City—Reflections on the Anthropocenic Urbanism"

Jane Gordon (University of Connecticut–Storrs)  
"Should 'the City' and 'the Polis' be Synonymous?"

Robert Birt (Bowie State University)  
"City in Color: (Neo)Colony or Liberated Community"

*Impromptu Discussion*

The CSBP sponsored an impromptu, open-ended discussion about the impact of the November 2016 election on philosophers of color, African American philosophy, and philosophy of race.

***Central Division:***

*Author Meets Critics: Paul Taylor's Black is Beautiful*  
Co-sponsored by the American Society for Aesthetics

Critics:  
James Haile (Bucknell University)  
Lewis Gordon (University of Connecticut, Storrs)  
Monique Roelofs (Hampshire College)  
Alia Al-Saji (McGill University)  
Response: Paul C. Taylor (Pennsylvania State University)

***Pacific Division:***

*Creolizing Hegel*  
Co-sponsored by the Committee on Hispanics

Michael J. Monahan  
"On Creolizing as (Theoretical) Praxis"  
Marquette University

Shannon M. Mussett  
"Crossing Boundaries: Hegel, Beauvoir, and hooks on Exclusion and Identity"  
Utah Valley University

Carlos A. Sanchez  
"The Future is Now: Leopoldo Zea's Hegelianism and the Liberation of the Mexican Past"  
San José State University

*Dialogues Between African and Asian Philosophy*

David H. Kim  
"Creolizing Kongzi: Africana Contributions to Confucian Political Theory"  
University of San Francisco

Alexus McLeod  
"A Concept of Personhood Based on Classical Chinese and Traditional West African Views"  
University of Connecticut

Lewis R. Gordon  
"African and Asian Philosophy: A Conversation"  
University of Connecticut

*APA Committee Session: Institutional and Attitudinal Barriers Informal Mini-conference on Issues of Inclusion and Diversity in Philosophy*

Arranged by the APA Committee on Inclusiveness and the University of Washington Department of Philosophy Climate Committee, co-sponsored by the APA Committees on the Status of Black Philosophers, Hispanics, the Status of Women in Philosophy, Teaching Philosophy, and Pre-college Instruction in Philosophy, and the Pacific Division of the Society for Women in Philosophy

Speakers:

Adam Cureton (University of Tennessee) “Accommodating Disabled Philosophers in the Profession”

Anita Silvers (San Francisco State University) and Paul Tubig (University of Washington) “Implicit Disability Bias: What Ought Philosophers to Do?”

Robert Figueroa (Oregon State University) “Speaking of Advocacy: The Philosophical, Personal, and Institutional Perils of TraitorIdentities”

Teresa Blankmeyer Burke (Gallaudet University) “The Myth of Interpreter Equivalence: Deaf Expertise and Autonomy”

*APA Committee Session: Inclusiveness in Crisis: How Do We Address Social and Political Flashpoints in Philosophy Courses? Informal Mini-conference on Issues of Inclusion and Diversity in Philosophy*

Arranged by the APA Committee on Inclusiveness and the University of Washington Department of Philosophy Climate Committee, co-sponsored by the APA Committees on the Status of Black Philosophers, Hispanics, the Status of Women in Philosophy, Teaching Philosophy, and Pre-college Instruction in Philosophy, and the Pacific Division of the Society for Women in Philosophy

Speakers:

Stephen Esquith (Michigan State University) “Including Refugees and Immigrants Through Civic Art and Engagement”

Christian Hoeckley (Westmont College) “Living Philosophy in Post-conflict Regions”

Ruth Groenhout (Calvin College) and Christina VanDyke (Calvin College) “Safe Spaces and the Gender Wars: Teaching Gender in a Conservative Environment”

*APA Committee Session: Outreach and Issues of Recruitment/ Retention Informal Mini-conference on Issues of Inclusion and Diversity in Philosophy*

Arranged by the APA Committee on Inclusiveness and the University of Washington Department of Philosophy Climate Committee, co-sponsored by the APA Committees on the Status of Black Philosophers, Hispanics, the Status of Women in Philosophy, Teaching Philosophy, and Pre-college Instruction in Philosophy, and the Pacific Division of the Society for Women in Philosophy

Speakers:

Adam Blazej (Columbia University)

John Fantuzzo (Valparaiso University)

John Torrey (University of Memphis)

Liam Kofi Bright (Carnegie Mellon University)

Eva Kittay (Stony Brook University)

*Society for Women in Philosophy Informal mini-conference on issues of inclusion and diversity in philosophy*

Arranged by the APA Committee on Inclusiveness and the University of Washington Department of Philosophy Climate Committee, co-sponsored by the APA Committees on the Status of Black Philosophers, Hispanics, the Status of Women in Philosophy, Teaching Philosophy, and Pre-college Instruction in Philosophy, and the Pacific Division of the Society for Women in Philosophy.

Topic: Issues of Inclusion and Diversity in Hiring Practices

Speakers:

Linda Martín Alcoff (Hunter College)

Naomi Zack (University of Oregon)

Carolyn Dicey Jennings (University of California, Merced)

### ***Newsletter on Philosophy and the Black Experience***

Editors Stephen Ferguson and Dwayne Tunstall completed publication of the Spring 2017 edition of the Newsletter, which contains contributions from Clevis Headley, Devon R. Johnson, Charles F. Peterson, John Torrey, and Naomi Zack. The issue may be viewed at:

<http://c.ymcdn.com/sites/www.apaonline.org/resource/collection/950518C1-3421-484C-8153-CDA6ED737182/BlackExperienceV16n2.pdf>

The Fall 2017 edition is also in the pipeline, but has not yet been issued by the APA.

### **CSBP Blog Project**

The CSBP, spearheaded by Lewis Gordon, is working with Nathan Eckstrand, the research and diversity editor of the APA Blog, to begin a regular CSBP-sponsored blog contribution to the APA Blog.

### **Joyce Mitchell Cook Book Award**

A sub-committee of the CSBP is working to draft a more robust statement than is currently on record about which books would be eligible to be nominated for the CSBP's Joyce Mitchell Cook Book Award.

### **Emergent Activities**

The CSBP wrote a letter to the APA Board of Directors urging the Board to take a stand against a right-wing website as well as the President of Texas A&M University for unfairly attacking public statements made some years ago by Prof. Tommy Curry during a podcast interview. After the CSBP sent its letter, the APA indicated it was working on a more general statement about harassment, which it did issue.

The CSBP spearheaded an initiative, working with the Committee on Inclusiveness, to ask the APA's Board of Directors to Issue a statement regarding the intimidation of black philosophers and other philosophers who support anti-racism and diversity—particularly Prof. George Yancy—in response to the election of Donald J. Trump as President. While the Committee on Inclusiveness was finalizing its letter to the APA, the APA issued a statement.