

# Committee on the Status of Black Philosophers

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## *2017–2018 Membership*

Julie Maybee, chair (2019)

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)

Kevin A. Richardson (2020)

Jeanine W. Schroer (2020)

Olufemi Taiwo (2020)

Stephen C. Ferguson II, newsletter editor

ANNUAL REPORT  
COMMITTEE ON THE STATUS OF BLACK PHILOSOPHERS  
2017-2018

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

***Eastern Division:***

***Note: these sessions were arranged, but were not held because the snow and ice storm in Savannah and along the East Coast prevented most of the sessions' participants from attending the conference***

*APA Committee Session: Academic Freedom and Race Under Trump*

Co-sponsored by Philosophy Born of Struggle

Chair:

Julie E. Maybee (Lehman College)

Speakers:

George Yancy (Emory University)

“I Am a Dangerous Professor”

Tommy J. Curry (Texas A&M University)

“Attacked from Both Sides: Blackened, Maled, and the Dilemma of Anti-Black Misandry”

Naomi Zack (University of Oregon)

“The Black Feminist Trolls: How Their Censorship Has Brought Down Hypatia and Philosophers and What to Do About It”

*APA Committee Session: Philosophical Reflections on Kendrick Lamar's Afro-Jewish Subjectivity*

Chair: Lewis Gordon (University of Connecticut)

Speakers: André E. Key (Claflin University)

“Damnation and Identity: The Problem of Moral Epistemology and Ethnic Suffering in Kendrick Lamar's DAMN”

Walter R. Isaac (Savannah State University)

“Possible World-Traveling and Ethnic Appropriation in Kendrick Lamar's Afro-Judaism”

Devon R. Johnson (Rutgers University)

“Reflections on Kendrick Lamar's Phenomenological Nihilism”

***Central Division:***

*APA Committee Session: Author Meets Critics: Tommy J. Curry's 'The Man-Not: Race, Class, Genre, and the Dilemmas of Black Manhood'*

Chair (and Speaker): Lucius T. Outlaw (Vanderbilt University)

Critic: Bill E. Lawson (University of Memphis)

Author: Tommy J. Curry (Texas A&M University)

***Pacific Division:***

*Book Symposium: Stephen C. Ferguson's 'Philosophy of African American Studies'*

Speakers:

John McClendon (Michigan State University)  
Olúfemi O. Táíwò (University of California, Los Angeles)  
Jared Rodriguez (Northwestern University)  
Commentator: Stephen Ferguson (North Carolina State University)

*Book Symposium: John McClendon's 'Philosophy of Religion and the African American Experience'*

Speakers:

Stephen Ferguson (North Carolina State University)  
Anthony Neal (Mississippi State University)  
Malik Simba (California State University, Fresno)  
Commentator: John McClendon (Michigan State University)

*APA Committee Session: Doing Philosophy with a Disability*

Arranged by the APA Committee on Inclusiveness in the Profession. Co-sponsored by the APA Committee on Asian and Asian-American Philosophers and Philosophies, the APA Committee on the Status of Black Philosophers, the APA Committee on LGBTQ People in the Profession, the APA Committee on Pre-College Instruction in Philosophy, the APA Committee on the Status and Future of the Profession, the APA Committee on the Status of Women in Philosophy, and the Pacific Society for Women in Philosophy.

Chair:

Joseph Stramondo (San Diego State University)

Speakers:

Christine Wieseler (University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston)  
"Reflections on Embodiment in the Classroom: or, A Disabled Philosopher Walks into a Medical School"  
Teresa Blankmeyer Burke (Gallaudet University)  
"Disability Calculus: Silencing and Speaking Out"  
Audrey Yap (University of Victoria)  
"Ableist Narratives and Self-Identification"

*APA Committee Session: Justice in the Aftermath of Injustice: The Limits of Liberalism for People of Color*

Arranged by the APA Committee on the Status of Black Philosophers. Co-sponsored by the APA Committee on Asian and Asian-American Philosophers and Philosophies, the APA Committee on LGBTQ People in the Profession, the APA Committee on Inclusiveness in the Profession, the APA Committee on Pre-College Instruction in Philosophy, the APA Committee on the Status and Future of the Profession, the APA Committee on the Status of Women in Philosophy, and the Pacific Society for Women in Philosophy.

Chair:

Sara Goering (University of Washington)

Speakers:

Denise James (University of Dayton)  
"The Many Conditions of Freedom: A Black Feminist Proposal"  
A. Y. Odedeyi (Michigan State University)  
"The Limits of Freedom and Speech and Joy"  
John Torrey (University of Memphis)  
"The Limits of Overcoming Injustice without Combatting Misrecognition"

*APA Committee Session: Philosophical Outreach: The Face and Space of Philosophy*

Arranged by the APA Committee on Pre-College Instruction in Philosophy. Co-sponsored by the APA Committee on Asian and Asian-American Philosophers and Philosophies, the APA Committee on the Status of Black Philosophers, the APA Committee on LGBTQ People in the Profession, the APA Committee on Inclusiveness in the Profession, the APA Committee on the Status and Future of the Profession, the APA Committee on the Status of Women in Philosophy, and the Pacific Society for Women in Philosophy.

Chair:

Marisol Brito (Metropolitan State University)

Speakers:

Amy Reed-Sandoval (University of Texas at El Paso)

“Make Space for the Philosophical Children of Philosophy”

Stephanie Rivera Berruz (William Paterson University)

“What Does Inclusivity Look Like? Reflections on the Changing Face of Philosophy”

Andrea Sullivan-Clarke (University of Washington)

“Changing the Face through Inclusive Space: the Inaugural Voyage of ISHIP”

*Society for Women in Philosophy Topic: Transfeminisms*

Co-sponsored by the APA Committee on Asian and Asian-American Philosophers and Philosophies, the APA Committee on the Status of Black Philosophers, the APA Committee on LGBTQ People in the Profession, the APA Committee on Inclusiveness in the Profession, the APA Committee on Pre-College Instruction in Philosophy, the APA Committee on the Status and Future of the Profession, the APA Committee on the Status of Women in Philosophy, and the Pacific Society for Women in Philosophy.

Chair:

Saray Ayala-Lopez (California State University, Sacramento)

Speakers:

Linda Martín Alcof (Hunter College)

“Relational Identities and the Right to Self-name”

Jamie Lindemann Nelson (Michigan State University)

“Personal Identities and Social Selves: First-Person Authority and Resistant Communities”

Yannik Thiem (Villanova University)

“The Unbearable Whiteness of Genderqueerness Under Neoliberalism”

*Newsletter on Philosophy and the Black Experience*

Editors Stephen Ferguson and Dwayne Tunstall completed publication of the Fall 2017 and Spring 2018 editions of the *Newsletter*. The Fall edition featured a discussion by Stephen and Dwayne about the harassment of Tommy Curry as well as other black professors by right-wing organizations, an article by John H. McClendon III analyzing the 2016 presidential election in the context of the U.S.’s racist and capitalist history, as well as reviews of books by Justin E. H. Smith (reviewed by Stephen C. Ferguson II) and Tommy J. Curry (reviewed by Myron Moses Jackson). The issue may be viewed at: <https://cdn.ymaws.com/www.apaonline.org/resource/collection/950518C1-3421-484C-8153-CDA6ED737182/BlackV17n1.pdf>

The Spring 2018 edition featured articles by Anthony Sean Neal defending the notion that Howard Thurman should be considered a philosopher and by Olúfemi Táíwò examining intersectionality in

relation to Tommy J. Curry's argument in *The Man-Not*, as well as a review of Curry's book by Ronald B. Neal. The issue may be viewed at:

<https://cdn.ymaws.com/www.apaonline.org/resource/collection/950518C1-3421-484C-8153-CDA6ED737182/BlackV17n2.pdf>

### **CSBP Blog Project**

CSBP member Lewis Gordon spearheaded the launch of the CSBP-sponsored blog series, *Black Issues in Philosophy*, on the APA Blog. So far, the series has published approximately two entries per month (16 entries total) on a wide variety of timely topics and people, including (in terms of people), the work of Donna-Dale Marcano, Cornel West, Oyèrónké Oyěwùmí, Alan Pelaez Lopez and Juliet Hooker, as well as (in terms of topics), the response of the president of Texas A&M University to the harassment of Tommy Curry, intersectionality and the work of Charles Mills, Australian Continental philosophy's engagement with place and with "White Australia Policy," the Franz Fanon Foundation's 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary conference on the continued relevance of Fanon's work, the conference of the Wits Centre for Diversity Studies on the toxic power of hate, the films *The Black Panther*, *Get Out*, and *Losing Ground* (which is about a black female philosophy professor), the philosophical environment at Morehouse College and the efforts and work of Morehouse President John Hope, and the value of using Anna Julia Cooper's essay "What Are We Worth" in introductory classes.

The blog series has by all accounts been a success, and the APA blog editors have indicated that they hope to encourage other APA committees or groups to copy the CSBP's idea by sponsoring their own blog series.

The CSBP's blog series may be viewed at: <https://blog.apaonline.org/tag/black-issues-in-philosophy/>.

### **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, as well as the nominating structure and procedure for, the CSBP's Joyce Mitchell Cook Book Award.

### **Emergent Activities**

The Executive Director of the APA, Amy Ferrer, wrote to the CSBP asking members if the Committee would be willing to work with the APA to organize a session for the 2018 National Humanities Conference in New Orleans from November 8-11 that would "examine how public and academic humanities practitioners can work together to" (among other things), "Confront the legacy of slavery, racism, and exclusion to better understand contemporary divisions." After voting to participate, the CSBP put together a proposal for a session entitled "Philosophers Engage with Communities Combatting Racism," featuring Dr. Marcos Bisticas-Cocoves (Morgan State University), Prof. Desirée Melton (Notre Dame of Maryland University) and Mr. Darien Pollock (Harvard University). The proposed session was accepted by the conference organizers.

The Committee also participated in the process of selecting an Associate Chair under the APA's new selection procedures.