American Philosophical Association Lecture

“REVITALIZING DEMOCRACY”

Michele Moody-Adams
Columbia University

Friday, November 17
2:30 p.m.

Morehouse College
•
Martin Luther King Jr. International Chapel
•
African American Hall of Fame

Free and open to the public

Sponsored by the American Philosophical Association, Morehouse College, and Spelman College

As the twenty-first century has unfolded, many established democracies have shown signs of dangerous disintegration. But Moody-Adams contends that we can still breathe new life into the institutions, practices, and norms that are critical to stable democracies. She turns to the work of John Dewey, Martin Luther King, Jr., and John Paul Lederach to explore the theoretical underpinnings of a commitment to revitalizing democracy. She also explores the practical implications of these views by reflecting on the statesmanship of Nelson Mandela, the achievements of global health advocate Paul Farmer, and civic art of remembrance designed by architect Maya Lin.

Michele Moody-Adams is Joseph L. Straus Professor of Political Philosophy and Legal Theory at Columbia University. She is the author of Making Space for Justice: Social Movements, Collective Imagination, and Political Hope (2022) and a widely cited work on moral relativism and moral objectivity, Fieldwork in Familiar Places: Morality, Culture, and Objectivity (1997). She is also a co-author of the volume Against Happiness (2023). Moody-Adams holds a B.A. in Philosophy from Wellesley College; a second B.A. and an MA from Oxford University in Philosophy, Politics, and Economics; and a Ph.D. from Harvard University where she completed her dissertation in philosophy under the direction of John Rawls. She is a Lifetime Honorary Fellow of Somerville College, Oxford and a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.