



**COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY
FALL 2009 COLLOQUIUM SERIES**

*The Department of Philosophy
at Texas A&M University
presents*

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**Too Legit to Quit: How Standards of Specialization in
Africana Philosophy are Necessary to Resist the
Eurocentric Cooptation of Black Philosophy**

Because African American philosophy is mainly praised for its ability to point out the inadequacies of European thought, there has been relatively little scholarship that articulates the actual historical positions that many Black authors held outside Africana philosophers' criticisms of European thinking. Rewarded for driving philosophy towards its unrealized ideals of equality, human freedom, and racial harmony, African American thought is consistently relegated to the status of a "sleeping dictionary," that gives white philosophers a racial dialect to deal with Blacks in exchange for the dominant philosophical lexicon. This paper argues that Africana philosophy, in order to effectively contribute to the study of African descended people, must develop standards of specialization that demand a competence in the unique histories, methodologies, and narratives of Africana experience. Failure to demand this level of scholarship will simply continue the ongoing practice of converging Black experience with white (supremacist) theory.

Thursday, 17 September 2009
3:45 p.m.
213 Bolton Hall