



TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

PHILOSOPHY

BORN OF STRUGGLE

• 23RD ANNUAL CONFERENCE •

THEORIZING WITHIN REVOLT: BLACK
POWER, BLACK LIFE, & BLACK THOUGHT -
THE ROLE OF AFRICANA PHILOSOPHY
IN THE 21ST CENTURY

NOVEMBER 3-5, 2016

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

MEMORIAL STUDENT CENTER | ROOM 2502



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, DR. TOMMY CURRY

I take great pleasure in welcoming you to the 23rd Annual Philosophy Born of Struggle Conference. This year's theme, *Theorizing within Revolt: Black Power, Black Life, and Black Thought* engages the tenor of our times. We live in a world not so distant from those our fore parents strove to overcome. A world where the rape of Black men and women, the incarceration of Black mothers and fathers, the death of Black children and the brutality by police seem all too common. These horrors seem like the recollections of nightmares—not the promises of our present. Yet, here we are.

The papers selected for this year's conference truly advance how *we are thinking* about the problems of racism, sexual violence, and economic exploitation in this country. For many academics, the theoretical is the routine. It stands against all other opinion and is steadfast against fact. We believe in theory more than God in some cases, because the Bible now has historians. This conference embraces the intellectual sacrilege of Black philosophy. It struggles against the ideas that have become habits in most fields and ventures out towards conceptual chaos and uncertainty. A condition necessary for realizing liberation.

This conference, this community, depends on the genius of its members. And if I had to stake our future on the voices and minds of the scholars listed on this year's program—I predict that our organization will continue its thriving well into the next decade.

I thank you all for attending and offer Southern hospitality and warm winter greetings to this year's conference.

Dr. Tommy J. Curry
Executive Director
Philosophy Born of Struggle

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THURSDAY,
NOVEMBER 3

- 2:00-2:30 PM Opening remarks by Dr. Leonard Harris
Welcome by Dr. Ted George
Introduction to conference by Dr. Tommy J. Curry
- 2:45-3:15 PM **Voices of Resistance and Restraint**
Terrance Lamar Cauley, Texas A&M University, "Irritated Agency and Circumscribed Discourse"
Calvin Walds, University of California, "Swerving throughout the Post-Industrial City (Detroit)"
Leamon Bazil, St. Louis University, "Hip-Hop, Respectability, and Black Male Existential Authenticity"
- 3:30-5:00 PM **Black Student's Perspective on Education, Genocide, Policy, and Community Sovereignty**
Moderator: Dalisto Ruwe, PhD Candidate Texas A&M University Philosophy Department
Speakers:
Trinity Harrison, Texas A&M University Philosophy
Joshua Lewis, Texas A&M University Philosophy
Chauncey LaBoo, Texas A&M University Forensics
Shaquille Murray, Texas A&M University Sociology
- 5:15-6:30 PM **Author Meets Critics- Ethics of a Revolutionary Tenor**
Anthony Neal, *Common Ground: A Comparison of the Ideas of Consciousness in the Writings of Howard Thurman and Huey Newton* (Africa World Press, 2015)
Critics:
Dwayne Tunstall, Grand Valley State University
Felipe Hinojosa, Texas A&M University
- 7:30-12:00 AM Philosophy Talk in lobby of Aloft Hotel

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FRIDAY,
NOVEMBER 4

9:00-10:30 AM

Power, Violence, and Vulnerability

Moderator: Tiffany Montoya, Purdue University, Ph. D. Candidate

Speakers:

Dr. John Narayan, University of Warwick, “Huey P. Newton: An Unacknowledged Sociology of Empire”

Dr. Gwenetta Curry, University of Alabama, “Towards a Self-determined Paradigm of Public Health: Black Power, Black Death and Poverty”

Colena Sesanker, University of Connecticut, “Vulnerability as Power”

10:45-12:30 AM

Keynote Panel –The Boyz

Moderator: Amy Pommerening, Texas State University

Speakers:

Rozena Maart, University of Kwa Zulu Natal, “The Boys”

Philile Langa, postgraduate student, UKZN, “The Black Man’s Innocence Within the Context of Armed Conflict: A Philosophical Discussion on the Denial of the Victimhood of Black Men”

Zaria Govender, postgraduate student, UKZN, “The Impact of Culture and the Inherent Internalisation of Trauma in South African Black Masculinity”

2:15-3:45 PM

Philosophy, Power and Violence

Moderator: Dr. James Haile, University of Rhode Island

Speakers:

Patrick Anderson, Texas A&M University, “From Black History to the Black Present: Racial Realism, Racial Sacrifice, and the Reconstruction Roots of Neoliberalism”

Brandon Hogan, Howard University, “Whiteness as a Force of Nature?”
Derefe Kimarley Chevannes, University of Connecticut, “Decolonizing Black Subjectivity— Movements from Problematicity Toward Horizons”

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4:00-5:30 PM

Insurrectionist Ethics

Moderator: Vincent Luizzi, Texas State University

Speakers:

Gregory Pappas, Texas A&M University, “Leonard Harris’ Insurrectionist “Challenge” to Pragmatism”

Christopher Voparil, Union Institute & University, “Philosophy and Black Lives Matter: The Insurrectionist Pragmatism of Ida B. Wells-Barnett and Richard Rorty”

Marlon A. Smith, Lone Star College, "An Exchange of the Grotesque: Nat Turner and the Construction of Black Prison Praxis”

SATURDAY,

NOVEMBER 5

9:00-10:30 AM

Graduate Student Panel: TrapSoul Just Another Interlude Towards New Waves of Critical Race Theory

Kiyadh Burt, Political Science Department, Texas A&M

Adebayo Ogungbure, Philosophy Department, Texas A&M

Dalitso Ruwe, Philosophy Department, Texas A&M

Andrew Soto, Philosophy Department, Texas A&M

10:45-12:00 PM

Black Power, Black Thought, and Anti-Blackness

Moderator: Alberto Urqudez, Sacred Heart University

Speakers:

Alease Brown, Stellenbosch University, “(Re-) Birthing Humanity: Fanon, Jesus and Generative Potentiality in the Violent Protest of Oppressed African Americans”

Jessica Otto, University of Akron Rank, “What Role do Whites Play in Supporting Black Power, Black Life, and Black Thought in an Era of Renewed Anti-Black Oppression?”

Hue Woodson, University of Texas at Arlington, “The Cruel Hand and the Perennial Crisis of the Black Intellectual in the Post-Obama Age”

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1:30-2:45 PM **Keynote Address:** Dr. Lisa Corrigan, "Revolutionary Suicide: Necromimesis, Radical Agency, and Black Ontology"

3:00-4:30 PM **Author Meets Critic—Our Locke's Critical Philosophy**
Jacoby Carter, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, *African American Contributions to the Americas' Cultures: A Critical Edition of Lectures by Alain Locke* (Palgrave MacMillan, 2016)

Critics:

Irami Osei-Frimpong, University of Georgia

Amir Jaima, Texas A&M University

4:45-6:15 PM **Presence, Erasure, and the Elimination of Othered-ness**

Moderator:

Reyes Espinoza, Purdue University, Ph.D. Candidate

Speakers:

Stephanie Rivera Berruz, William Patterson, "In the Borderlands you are the battleground...': Queer Latinx Bodies, Sacred Space, and June 12"

John S. Sanni, Stellenbosch University, "Black Body, Black Mind, Black Nothing?"

Dana Francisco Miranda, University of Connecticut, "The Crisis of Black Appearance"

6:20-6:45 PM **Closing Remarks**

Reception to follow at Azure Fusion Bistro & Sake

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VICE-PRESIDENT, DR. DWAYNE A. TUNSTALL

On behalf of the Executive Board of Philosophy Born of Struggle, I would like to welcome you to the 23rd Annual Philosophy Born of Struggle Conference. In the spirit of this year's conference theme, I hope that we have plenty of opportunities to discuss and think about the relevance of Black Power in the 21st century, whether philosophy can help solve the problems confronting Black Americans now, what are the prospectus of Black Americans and other people of color becoming liberated through political revolution and identity politics, and how one's gender, sexual orientation, disability status, and socioeconomic status may affect how people understand struggles for liberation. I also hope that you have plenty of opportunities to learn from one another as we discuss and think about these issues together. I am especially excited that we will hear from scholars working on two continents (Africa and North America), in several academic disciplines, with a range of professional affiliations (from undergraduate students to senior scholars), and from several theoretical traditions.

I would like to thank the following sponsors for making this year's conference possible: Texas A&M Department of Philosophy, and the Texas A&M University College of Liberal Arts; Purdue University, Office of the Dean, Department of Philosophy, and Africana Studies and Research Center. I would also like to thank the PBS Executive Director, Dr. Tommy Curry for hosting the conference and the and Leonard Harris for organizing this year's conference.

Dr. Dwayne A. Tunstall
Vice-President
Philosophy Born of Struggle