

# Christopher J. Lebron

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## **ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT**

**Johns Hopkins University**, Baltimore, MD

*Associate Professor*, Philosophy (2017 – Present)

**Yale University**, New Haven, CT

*Assistant Professor*, African American Studies & Philosophy (2014 – 2017)

*Associate Research Fellow*, Political Science; Ethics, Politics & Economics (2012 – 2014)

**University of Virginia**, Charlottesville, VA

*Assistant Professor*, Woodrow Wilson Department of Politics (2009 – 2012)

## **EDUCATION**

**Massachusetts Institute of Technology**, Cambridge, MA

Ph.D., Political Science (6/2009)

Fields: Social Theory and Political Philosophy, International Relations (second field)

Dissertation: *Race, Power, History, and Justice In America*

Committee: Joshua Cohen (chair), Melissa Nobles, Sarah Song, Tommie Shelby

**Baruch College, City University of New York**, New York, NY

B. A., Political Science and Philosophy (with honors; magna cum laude) (2004)

Honors Thesis: *Towards a Theory of International Justice*

## **AWARDS & HONORS**

THE DALLAS INSTITUTE OF HUMANITIES AND CULTURE – THE HIETT PRIZE IN THE HUMANITIES  
(NATIONAL PRIZE FOR ACADEMICS AND NON-ACADEMICS) (WINNER 2018)

American Political Science Association Foundations of Political Theory section First Book Prize for *The Color of Our Shame: Race and Justice In Our Time* (2014)  
University of Virginia, Miller Center of Public Affairs Wilson Carey McWilliams Fellow (2007-2008)  
MIT Graduate Fellowship (2004-2009)  
American Political Science Association, Minority Graduate Fellow (2004-2005)  
Duke University, Ralph Bunche Summer Institute Fellow (Summer 2003)  
City University of New York, McNair Fellow (Summer 2003)  
Lillian B. Kormandy Scholarship recipient (2003)  
Hispanic Scholarship Fund recipient (2002)

### **FIELDS OF INTEREST**

Political ethics; moral theory; social justice; race

### **PUBLICATIONS**

#### **Books**

*The Making of 'Black Lives Matter': A Brief History of an Idea; Updated Edition.* Oxford University Press, 2023

*The Making of 'Black Lives Matter': A Brief History of an Idea.* Oxford University Press, June 2017  
Finalist for The Hooks Institute National Book Award – recognizing work that “furthers our understanding of the American civil rights movement and its legacy.” (final award decision not yet made)

*The Color of Our Shame: Race and Justice In Our Time.* Oxford University Press, 2013  
Winner of the American Political Science Association Foundations of Political Theory section First Book Prize for *The Color of Our Shame: Race and Justice In Our Time* (2014)

#### **Articles**

“Response to Critics” in *Ethnic & Racial Studies* [forthcoming] – Symposium for *The Making of Black Lives Matter: A Brief History of an Idea.*

“Thoughts on Racial Democratic Education and Moral Virtue” in *Research and Theory in Education* 13 no. 2 (2015), pp. 155-164.

“Equality From A Human Point of View” in *Critical Philosophy of Race* 2 no. 2 (2014), pp. 125-159.

“The Agony of A Racial Democracy” in *Theory & Event* 15 no.3 (2012)

<http://muse.jhu.edu/article/484430>

### Invited Contributions

“The Sense and Sensibility of Equality” in *The Southern Journal of Philosophy* (forthcoming)

“Without The Loving Strains Of Commitment: Johns Rawls and James Baldwin On the Sense of Justice” in *Ideas That Matter: Essays In Honor of Joshua Cohen*. Eds. Debra Satz and Annabelle Lever. (New York: Oxford University Press, 2019)

“Between Roots and Routes: On Paul Gilroy’s “The Black Atlantic” Invited contribution to the *Oxford Handbook of Classics in Contemporary Political Theory* (forthcoming in print; available online)

### Book Reviews

Review of Nicholas Buccola’s *The Fire Is Upon Us: James Baldwin, William F. Buckley Jr. and the Debate over Race In America* in *Perspectives On Politics*. 18 no. 4 (2020), pp. 1146-1149.

Review of Andrew Valls’ *Rethinking Racial Justice* in *Ethics*. 130 no. 3. (2020), pp. 478-482.

Review of Charles Mills’s *Black Rights/White Wrongs: The Critique of Racial Liberalism* in *Philosophical Review*. 128 no. 4 (2019), pp. 532-536.

Review of Tommie Shelby’s *Dark Gbetos: Injustice, Dissent, and Reform* in *Political Theory* 47 no.4 (2019) pp. 527-558.

“From Our Long, Dogmatic Racial Slumber” (review of Jack Turner’s *Awakening To Race: Individualism and Social Consciousness In America*) in *Political Theory* 44 no. 1 (2016), pp. 140-144.

Review of Clarissa Hayward’s *How Americans Make Race: Stories, Institutions, Spaces* in *Contemporary Political Theory* 14 no. 2 (2015), e201-e204.

<http://www.palgravejournals.com/cpt/journal/vaop/ncurrent/full/cpt201417a.html>

“Seeing (Beyond) The Limits Of Our Racial Knowledge” (review of Irene Tucker’s *The Moment of Racial Sight: A History*) in *Theory & Event* 17 no. 1 (2014)

<http://muse.jhu.edu/article/539139>

### **PUBLIC INTELLECTUAL ENGAGEMENT**

“I Don’t Have To Forgive Joe Biden” in *Boston Review*, November 17, 2020

<https://bostonreview.net/race-politics/christopher-lebron-i-dont-have-forgive-joe-biden>

“White America Wants Me To Conform. I Won’t Do It” in *The New York Times* (The Stone). June 16, 2020.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/06/16/opinion/black-academia-racism.html>

“What Happened To Kanye West: in *Boston Review*. December 6 2018

<https://bostonreview.net/race/christopher-lebron-what-happened-kanye-west>

“The Personal Cost of Black Success” in *The Atlantic*. November, 2018

<https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2018/11/the-personal-cost-of-black-success/570820/>

“Up From Rawls” in *The Nation*. July 18, 2018

<https://www.thenation.com/article/up-from-rawls/>

“Janelle Monae For President” in *Boston Review*. May 21, 2018

<https://bostonreview.net/race-literature-culture/chris-lebron-janelle-monae-president>

“Black Panther Is Not The Movie We Deserve” in *Boston Review*. February 17, 2018

<https://bostonreview.net/race/christopher-lebron-black-panther>

“Who First Showed Us That Black Lives Matter?” in *The New York Times* (The Stone). February 5, 2018.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/02/05/opinion/black-lives-matter-philosophy.html>

“What We Are Teaching Black Children” in *The New York Times* (The Stone). June 22, 2017.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/06/22/opinion/charleena-lyles-philando-castile.html>

“Trump’s Racial Time Machine” in *The New York Times* (The Stone). November 11, 2016  
<http://www.nytimes.com/2016/11/12/opinion/trumps-racial-time-machine.html>

“I’m Black. Does America Have A Plan for My Life?” in *The New York Times* (The Stone). September 26, 2016.  
[http://www.nytimes.com/2016/09/26/opinion/im-black-does-america-have-a-plan-for-my-life.html?\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2016/09/26/opinion/im-black-does-america-have-a-plan-for-my-life.html?_r=0)

“Race, Truth, and Our Two Realities” in *The New York Time* (The Stone). July 11, 2016.  
<http://www.nytimes.com/2016/07/11/opinion/race-truth-and-our-two-realities.html>

“Lynching By Any Other Name” in *Boston Review*, June 23, 2016.  
<http://www.bostonreview.net/us/christopher-lebron-california-horror-lynch-law-its-latest-phase>

“To Be A Black Professor At Yale” in *The Chronicle of Higher Education*. February 14, 2016.

“The Invisibility of Black Women” in *Boston Review*. January 15, 2016.  
<http://bostonreview.net/blog/christopher-lebron-invisibility-black-women>

“The Inheritance of Disaffection” in *The New York Times* (The Stone). November 30, 2015.  
[http://opinionator.blogs.nytimes.com/2015/11/30/the-inheritance-of-disaffection/?\\_r=0](http://opinionator.blogs.nytimes.com/2015/11/30/the-inheritance-of-disaffection/?_r=0)

“I’m Fine How I Am: A Response To Randall Kennedy’s Defense of Respectability Politics” in *Boston Review*. September 25, 2015. <http://bostonreview.net/books-ideas/chris-lebron-response-randall-kennedy-respectability-politics>

“Time For A New Black Radicalism” in *The New York Times* (The Stone). June 19, 2015.  
[http://opinionator.blogs.nytimes.com/2015/06/22/time-for-a-new-black-radicalism/?\\_r=0](http://opinionator.blogs.nytimes.com/2015/06/22/time-for-a-new-black-radicalism/?_r=0)

“What, To The Black American, Is Martin Luther King Jr. Day?” in *The New York Times* (The Stone). January 18, 2015. [http://opinionator.blogs.nytimes.com/2015/01/18/what-to-the-black-american-is-martin-luther-king-jr-day/?ref=opinion&\\_r=0](http://opinionator.blogs.nytimes.com/2015/01/18/what-to-the-black-american-is-martin-luther-king-jr-day/?ref=opinion&_r=0)

“Are Blacks Friends or Foes?” in *Boston Review* Jan/Feb 2015

<http://bostonreview.net/forum/ferguson-wont-change-anything-what-will/christopher-lebron-christopher-lebron-response>

Philosophy Talk Radio (guest) – Year In Review [aired January 4, 2015]

Interview with 3:AM Magazine (on *The Color of Our Shame* and the status of race in philosophy); published September 29, 2014

<http://www.3ammagazine.com/3am/the-colour-of-our-shame/>

### **CONFERENCES & PRESENTATIONS**

“*The Elements of Racial Tragedy*”. Public Lecture, University of Cambridge, Cambridge, United Kingdom, December 7, 2022.

“*The Elements of Racial Tragedy*”. Philosophy Colloquium, Boston University, Boston, MA, October 14, 2022

“*The Elements of Racial Tragedy*”. Conference in honor of Joseph Carens, University of Toronto, Toronto, Canada, June 3, 2022

“*James Baldwin and Civil Rights*”. Dallas Institute of the Humanities and Culture, Dallas, TX, February 24, 2020.

“*Black Lives Matter: A Movement Whose Time Has Come?*”. Distinguished Schaefer Lecture at Gallaudet University at Gallaudet University, Washington, D.C., August 18, 2020.

Panel Discussion, Cambridge American History Seminar (with Jamelle Bouie and Elizabeth Hinton) – “*Black Lives Matter: Past, Present, and Future*”. Cambridge, United Kingdom, November 16, 2020.

“*The Beautiful Ugly Struggle: How Black Lives Mattered to Angela Davis and Amiri Baraka*”. (Public Lecture). Los Angeles, CA, November 20, 2020.

“*Philosophy In Public: Discussing Identity as a Public Intellectual In The Humanities*”. Philosophy Dept. workshop. University of Florida, Gainesville, FL, November 15, 2019.

“*A Coming Out of Ourselves*”: *Knowing Our Place In Racial Justice*. Public Lecture – Center for the Humanities and the Public Sphere. University of Florida, Gainesville, FL, November 14, 2019.

“*A Coming Out of Ourselves*”: *Knowing Our Place In Racial Justice*. 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Ambedkar Lectures. Columbia University, New York, NY, October 17, 2019

*The Sense and Sensibility of Equality*. Practical Philosophy Workshop. University of Chicago, Chicago, IL, April 19, 2019

*The Sense and Sensibility of Equality*. Keynote – The Epistemology of Justice – University of Memphis,

Memphis, TN, March 21-22, 2019

*Black Love and Black Rage In America: The Burden of Hope*, The Chancellor Dunning Lectureship – Queens University, Kingston, Canada, October 11, 2018

*The Reversal of the Lost Race Narrative*, Washington University, St. Louis, MO September 16, 2018

*Black Love and Black Rage In America: The Burden of Hope*, Washington University, St. Louis, MO September 13, 2018

*Black Panther Is Not The Movie We Deserve*, New York, NY, April 27, 2018

*Black Love and Black Rage In America*, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA, Feb 7, 2018

*The Reversal of the Lost Race Narrative*; University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA, Feb 8, 2018

*The Duty to Imagine: Afrofuturism vs. the Politics of White Identity Narratives*, Georgia Tech, Atlanta GA, March 1, 2018

*The Reversal of the Lost Race Narrative*, Colloquium, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA, February 8, 2018

*The Future of Racial Morality After Black Love and Black Rage*, Lecture, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA, February 18, 2018

*Without the Loving Strains of Commitment: Baldwin on Love and Justice*, Colloquium, Duke University, Durham, NC, April 7, 2017

*The Future of Racial Morality After Black Love and Black Rage*, Lecture, Brooklyn Public Library, NYC, NY, May 18, 2017

*The Reversal of the Lost Race Narrative*, Conference, UCLA, Los Angeles, CA, April 29, 2017

*Without the Loving Strains of Commitment: Baldwin on Love and Justice*, Conference, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD, April 7, 2017

*Without the Loving Strains of Commitment: Baldwin on Love and Justice*, Colloquium, SUNY Binghamton, NY, March 9, 2017

*Without the Loving Strains of Commitment: Baldwin on Love and Justice*, Conference, Stanford, Palo Alto, CA, January 21, 2017.

*Without the Loving Strains of Commitment: Baldwin on Love and Justice*, Lecture, University of Alabama Tuscaloosa, AL, November 4, 2016

Hannah Arendt Center for Politics “Real Talk: Difficult Questions About Race, Sex, and Religion” Anandale-on-Hudson, NY, October 21, 2016

*The Future of Racial Morality After Black Love and Black Rage*, Lecture, Philosophy In An Inclusive Key (PIKSI), State College, PA, June 15, 2016

New York Council for the Humanities “Democracy and Distrust”, New York, NY, May 3, 2016

*The Future of Racial Morality After Black Love and Black Rage*, Lecture, Seton Hall, April 21, 2016

*The Sense and Sensibility of Equality*, Duke Philosophy Colloquium, Duke University, Durham, NC, March 4, 2016

*The Future of Racial Morality After Black Love and Black Rage*, Philosophy and Race Speaker Series, Columbia University, New York, NY, February 19, 2016

*Cultural Control Over Social Control: The Radical Possibilities of the Harlem Renaissance*, Teacher’s College Colloquium, Columbia University, New York, NY, February 18, 2016

*Black Love and Black Rage in America Part III: The Burden of Hope*, Political Theory Colloquium, Washington University, Seattle, WA, November 3, 2015

*Black Love & Black Rage In America Part II: The Meaning of the Blues*, Public Lecture, Emory College, Atlanta, GA, September 22, 2015

*Black Love and Black Rage In America Part I: The Well-Being of Our Emotions*, Lecture, Claremont McKenna College, Claremont, CA, May 3, 2015

*Thoughts On Racial Democratic Education and Moral Virtue*, University of Pennsylvania Graduate School of Education Visiting Faculty of Color Lecture Series, Philadelphia, PA, December 2, 2014

*The Sense and Sensibility of Equality*, Wesleyan Philosophy Colloquium, Middletown, CT, October 27, 2014

*The Sense and Sensibility of Equality*, Stanford Political Theory Workshop, Stanford, CA, October 17, 2014

*The Sense and Sensibility of Equality*, MIT Philosophy Colloquium, Cambridge, MA, October 10, 2014

*The Political Significance of Blame*, Moral Theory Workshop – Philosophy, Yale University  
New Haven, CT, April 2014

*Equality From A Human Point of View*, Political Theory Colloquium – Political Science,  
Columbia University New York, NY, October 2013

*Theory Is Stranger Than Fiction: Black Literature As Social Truth*, The American Political Science  
Association, Chicago, IL, August 2013

*The Philosophy of Racial Justice: Urgency, Imagination, and Method*, Endeavors – Yale African-  
American Studies Speaker Series, New Haven, CT, March 2013

*Equality From A Human Point of View*, Political Theory Colloquium – Political Science,  
University of Maryland: College Park, College Park, MD, February 2013

*Equality From A Human Point of View*, Political Theory Colloquium – Political Science, Yale  
University, New Haven, CT November, 2012

*Race In A Post-Civil Rights America*, The American Political Science Association, Seattle, WA,  
September 2011

*The Political Significance of Blame*, The American Political Science Association, Washington,  
D.C., September 2010

*The Political Significance of Blame*, Affect, Imagination and Democracy, University of Virginia,  
Charlottesville, VA April 2010

*Explaining Historical Injustice: History, Socially Embedded Power, and Group Asymmetries*, The  
American Political Science Association, Toronto, Canada, September 2009.

## **COURSES**

*Liberalism*

*Luck and Justice*

*The Idea of Power*

*Contemporary Political Thought*

*Egalitarianism*

*Morality and Black Literature*

*The Making of 'Black Lives Matter' – An Intellectual History*

*The Political Philosophy of Afrofuturism*

*Being A Good Person*

*Moral Imagination*

*Tragedy and Living Well*

*Being Human*

*Williams & MacIntyre vs. Liberalism*

## **SERVICE**

### Johns Hopkins

Member of the Faculty Senate (Fall 2022)

Chair of the Humanities Program for Advanced Academic Programs (Fall 2019-Present)

Board Member – Alexander Grass Humanities Institute – Fall 2019 - Present

Hiring Committee – Fall 2018 – Fall 2021

Undergraduate Advising

- Aidan Hamilton

Graduate Advising

- David Bernard Williams
- Patrick O'Donnell

### Academy

2015 – January 2019 – Board of Editorial Consultants – *Public Affairs Quarterly*

2025 – Present – Editorial Board – *Philosophy & Public Affairs*