

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; 2nd Edition –Oxford University Press, forthcoming fall 2023 (with a second introduction and new chapter)

Common Failures and Extraordinary Hopes: Race and the Uses of Imagination – under review by Oxford University Press (Favorable reader reports received Summer 2020)

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, September 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 Ghettos: 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

“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.

<https://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

“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

“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>

“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*. 2nd 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

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*