

JOHN DEWEY SOCIETY

2016 ANNUAL MEETING, WASHINGTON D.C.

Day One - April 8, 2016

12:30 -2:00 John Dewey Symposium: Race, State Violence and Education after Ferguson

The primary mission of the John Dewey Society is to encourage critical reflection on the pressing social, cultural and educational issues of our time. In that spirit, the Society annually hosts a symposium on a selected contemporary issue. This year's issue is "Race, State Violence, and Education after Ferguson."

On August 9, 2014, Darren Wilson, a Ferguson Missouri police officer, fatally shot Michael Brown, an 18 year old African-American man, sparking mass protests as well as vigorous national debate about the relations between African-Americans and the police. The subsequent deaths of other young African Americans including Tamir Rice in Cleveland Ohio and Sandra Bland in Waller County Texas have intensified that debate. The activist movement Black Lives Matter, formed after the acquittal of George Zimmerman in the fatal shooting of Trayvon Martin in Miami Shores, Florida, has gained worldwide attention for its protests of police violence. *Between the World and Me*, a book of reflections on the racial climate after Ferguson by prominent journalist Ta-Nehesi Coates, rose to the top of the New York Times bestseller list, and won the 2015 National Book Award.

The John Dewey Society invites reflection on the current situation, and is honored to welcome three prominent educators and thought leaders - Paul C. Taylor, Denise James, and James Earl Davis - to address its pressing issues.

Paul C. Taylor is Dean of Undergraduate Studies at Penn State, where he also serves as associate professor of philosophy and African American studies. Professor Taylor earned a BA in philosophy from Morehouse College, a Ph.D. in philosophy from Rutgers University, and an MPA (master in public administration) from Harvard's Kennedy School of Government. His books include "Race: A Philosophical Introduction" (Polity, 2013) and "The Philosophy of Race" (Routledge, 2012). In 2015 he delivered two significant invited lectures: "The President as Racial Project," Irving Thalberg Lecture, University of Illinois-Chicago (March 2015), and "Facing Ferguson," The 2015 Capen Lectures, The University at Buffalo SUNY (October 2015).

Denise James is Associate Professor of Philosophy at the University of Dayton. Dr. James' primary research interest is in American social and political philosophy. She received her B.A. from Spelman College, and her M.A. and Ph.D. from Emory University in Atlanta, GA. Her recent articles include: "Black Feminist Pragmatism: Forethoughts on the Practice and Purpose of Philosophy as Envisioned by Black Feminists and John Dewey." *Journal of Speculative Philosophy*, Vol. 23, No. 2, 2009, pp. 92-99; "The Hostile Gospel and Democratic Faith: Black Feminist Reflections on John Dewey and Rap," *Contemporary*

Feminist Pragmatism, Hamington and Bardwell-Jones, Indiana University Press, 2012, pp. 42-56; and "Musing: A Black Feminist Philosopher: Is That Possible?" *Hypatia*, Vol. 29, No. 1, pp. 179 - 186, 2014.

James Earl Davis holds the Bernard C. Watson Endowed Chair in Urban Education at Temple University, where he previously served as Dean of the College of Education. He earned his B.A. from Morehouse College, Atlanta, Georgia, and his Ph.D. from Cornell University, Ithaca, New York, both in sociology. He is the author (with Vernon C. Polite) of *African American Males in School and Society: Practices and Policies for Effective Education* (1999); and many book chapters and articles including "Uneasy Ties: Race and gender in urban education reform," In V.C. Polite and E. Zamani (Eds.), *The State of African American Men in Michigan: A courageous conversation* (pp. 145-164). East Lansing, MI: Michigan State Press, 2010 and "Negotiating masculinity in college: African American males and academic engagement. In M.C. Brown, T.E. Dancy, and J.E. Davis (Eds.), *Educating African American males: Contexts for consideration, possibilities for practice* (pp. 53-66). New York: Peter Lang, 2012. Professor Davis's work was profiled in Leonard Waks, "Encounter: The Cultural Progressivism of James Earl Davis," *Education and Culture*: 20 (2):7 (2006).

2:15 - 3:45 School and Society Forum

Teachers Liz Collins and Anna Laura Grant will join students from Washington Latin Public Charter to talk about public schooling and the quest for racial justice. JDS Executive Secretary Kyle Greenwalt will introduce the forum.

4:00 - 6:00 John Dewey Lecture

Professor Ellen Condliffe Lagemann will speak about the US prison crisis.

Ellen Condliffe Lagemann is *Levy Institute Research Professor, Bard College, and Distinguished Fellow at the Bard Prison Initiative*. She served as Dean of Harvard university's School of Education from 2002 - 2005. Prior to her appointment, Lagemann, a nationally known expert on the history of education and education research, had been the president of the Spencer Foundation. Previously, she taught at New York University where she served as chair of the Department of the Humanities and the Social Sciences and was director of the Center for the Study of American Culture and Education. She also taught at Teachers College, where she was also a member of the Department of History at Columbia. She is the author of *A Generation of Women: Education in the Lives of Progressive Reformers* (Harvard University Press, 1979), and *An Elusive Science: The Troubling History of Education Research* (University of Chicago Press 2002).

6:00-7:30 John Dewey Society Reception

Please join us for a light pre-dinner reception and a chance to meet Prof. Lagemann and the officers and members of the John Dewey Society.

Day Two - April 9, 2016

12:30 - 2:00 John Dewey and American Philosophy Panel: *Democracy and Education at 100*

Peter Nelsen, Appalachian State University, *Why Self-Direction Requires Others: Autonomy in Democracy and Education*

Susan Mayer, Independent Scholar, *Reconceptualizing Deweyan Pragmatism for a Pluralistic World*

Megan Laverty and Bill Gaudelli, Teachers College, *Reconstruction of Social Studies*

James Scott Johnston, Memorial University of Newfoundland, *The Logic of Democracy and Education*

2:15 - 3:45 Dewey Through the Generations Panel

The Aims of the Public Intellectual: Grassroots Movements and Organization

Self-organizing democratic organizations have become essential in fueling the engine of sustainable change and efforts to address the issues facing our world today. In *Democracy and Education*, Dewey argued that these movements and organizations were signs of a robust democratic social life. Today they are all the more important to explore and utilize, given the social, economic, and environmental problems we face.

Justo Serrano Zamora, Institut für Sozialforschung (Institute for Social Research) Frankfurt am Main (Germany), *Challenging Public Inquiry: A Deweyan Approach to Emancipatory Movements*

Elizabeth Liu, McGill University, *Reaching to A Mature Social Life: the Ultimate Goal of Deweyan Democracy*

Stephanie A. Burdick-Shepherd, Assistant Professor, Lawrence University, "I'm here to speak up...!"
Illuminating John Dewey's philosophy of participation through Malala Yousafzai's childhood activism

Kurt Stemhagen, Virginia Commonwealth University, Respondent

4:00 - 5:30 John Dewey Society Annual Members Business Meeting

THANK YOU