

Quayshawn Spencer

Curriculum Vitae

University of Pennsylvania
Department of Philosophy
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Philadelphia, PA 19104

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EDUCATION

Stanford University

Ph.D. in Philosophy, 2009
M.S. in Biology, 2008

Dissertation: "Is Cladistic Race a Genuine Kind?"

Committee: Michael Friedman (advisor), Helen Longino, Elliott Sober, & Ward Watt

Tufts University

M.A. in Philosophy, 2004

Cornell University

B.A. in Philosophy and Chemistry, 2001
Cum Laude in Philosophy

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

Philosophy of Science, Philosophy of Biology, Philosophy of Race

AREAS OF COMPETENCE

Logic, Metaphysics, Ethics

ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

University of Pennsylvania

Department of Philosophy
Assistant Professor, January 2015 – Present

University of San Francisco

Department of Philosophy
Assistant Professor, August 2009 – January 2015

University of Pennsylvania

Department of Philosophy
Distinguished Visiting Scholar, March 17-21, 2014

Stanford University

Department of Philosophy

Visiting Scholar, August 2012 - August 2013

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Department of Linguistics and Philosophy

Martin Luther King Jr. Visiting Assistant Professor, Summer 2009 - Summer 2010

AWARDS, GRANTS, & FELLOWSHIPS

Grants

Penn Undergraduate Research Mentorship Grant (PURM), Summer 2017

- \$5,000 to support the book project *A Radical Solution to the Race Problem*

Penn Undergraduate Research Mentorship Grant, Summer 2016

- \$5,000 to support the book project *Racial Pluralism*

American Philosophical Association, 9/30/14-9/15/15

- \$945 to support the study “What is the State of Blacks in Philosophy?, Part II”

National Science Foundation Standard Grant (Award #: [1331110](#)), 9/15/13-8/31/14

- \$21,514 to support “Workshop: An Interdisciplinary Conference on the Nature and Reality of Race bringing together Philosophical and Biomedical Perspectives”

Fleishhacker Foundation Grant, 2012

- \$12,000 to support a conference on the nature and reality of race called, “The Race Debate... from Philosophy to Biomedical Research”

Philosophy of Science Association (PSA) Travel Grant, 2012

- \$206 to fund travel costs to attend the 23rd Biennial PSA Meeting

Fleishhacker Foundation Grant, 2011

- \$12,000 to support a conference on the status of race in evolutionary biology, “Is There Space for Race in Evolutionary Biology?”

Fellowships

Ford Foundation Postdoctoral Fellowship, 2012-2013

Martin Luther King Jr. Visiting Professor Fellowship (MIT), 2009-2010

University of San Francisco Dissertation Fellowship, 2008-2009

Ford Foundation Dissertation Fellowship (declined), 2008

Patrick M. Byrne Fellowship (Stanford), 2008

PUBLICATIONS

Asterisks flag peer-reviewed publications

Journal Articles

1. Spencer, Q. (2018). A Racial Classification for Medical Genetics. *Philosophical Studies* 175(5): 1013-1037.*
2. Spencer, Q. (2018). Racial Realism II: Are Folk Races Real? *Philosophy Compass* 13(1): e12467.*
3. Spencer, Q. (2018). Racial Realism I: Are Biological Races Real? *Philosophy Compass* 13(1): e12468.*
4. Spencer, Q. (2016). Do Humans Have Continental Populations? *Philosophy of Science* 83(5): 791-802.*
5. Spencer, Q. (2015). Philosophy of Race Meets Population Genetics. *Studies in History and Philosophy of Biological and Biomedical Sciences* 52: 46-55.*
6. Spencer, Q. (2014). A Radical Solution to the Race Problem. *Philosophy of Science* 81(5): 1025-1038.*
7. Botts, T.F., Bright, L.K., Cherry, M., Mallarangeng, G., and Spencer, Q. What is the State of Blacks in Philosophy? (2014). *Critical Philosophy of Race* 2(2): 224-242.*
8. Spencer, Q. (2014). The Unnatural Racial Naturalism. *Studies in History and Philosophy of Biological and Biomedical Sciences* 46:38-43.*
9. Spencer, Q. (2013). Biological Theory and the Metaphysics of Race: A Reply to Kaplan and Winther. *Biological Theory* 8(1): 114-120.*
10. Spencer, Q. (2013). Introduction to 'Is There Space for Race in Evolutionary Biology?' *Studies in History and Philosophy of Biological and Biomedical Sciences* 44(3): 247-249.
11. Spencer, Q. (2012). What 'Biological Racial Realism' Should Mean. *Philosophical Studies* 159(2): 181-204. (This was the first philosophy of race article published in this journal.)*
12. Spencer, Q. (2004). Do Newton's rules of reasoning guarantee truth... must they? *Studies in History and Philosophy of Science, Part A* 35(4): 759-782.*

Book Chapters

1. Spencer, Q. (2018). “Are Folk Races Like Dingos, Dimes, or Dodos?,” in Gideon Rosen et al. (eds.), *The Norton Introduction to Philosophy*. New York: W.W. Norton & Company, Inc.*
2. Spencer, Q. (2016). “Genuine Kinds and Scientific Reality,” in C. Kendig (ed.), *Natural Kinds and Classification in Scientific Practice* (pp. 157-172). New York: Routledge.*

Encyclopedia Articles

3. Spencer, Q. (2013). “Race,” in Hugh LaFollette (ed.), *The International Encyclopedia of Ethics*, Hugh LaFollette (ed.)

WORK IN PROGRESS

4. *Four Views on Race*, a co-authored monograph with Sally Haslanger, Joshua Glasgow, and Chike Jeffers (under contract with Oxford University Press)*
5. *The Race Debates from Metaphysics to Medicine*, an edited volume (under contract with Oxford University Press)*
6. *A Radical Solution to the Race Problem*, a single-authored monograph (in preparation)
7. “In Defense of the Actual Metaphysics of Race” (in preparation)
8. “When is a Genetic Cluster a Population?” (in preparation)
9. “Racial Realism” (conditionally accepted at *Philosophy Compass*)*

TALKS

Philosophy

March 2018. “Two Comments on Michael Hardimon’s *Rethinking Race*,” for the book symposium on Michael Hardimon’s *Rethinking Race: The Case for Deflationary Realism*, 92nd Annual Pacific APA Meeting, San Diego, CA.

February 2018. “A Racial Classification for Medical Genetics,” a Keynote Lecture for the 2018 Philosophy Department Spring Colloquium entitled ‘Science, Values, and the Public,’ University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI.

December 2017. “A Radical Solution to the Race Problem,” a Lecture for the McFarland Center for Religion, Ethics, and Culture and the Department of Philosophy, College of the Holy Cross, Worcester, MA.

November 2017. “A Radical Solution to the Race Problem,” a Philosophy Department Colloquium Talk, Smith College, Northampton, MA.

October 2017. “A Radical Solution to the Race Problem,” a Philosophy Department Colloquium Talk, Tufts University, Medford, MA.

September 2017. “A Radical Solution to the Race Problem,” a Philosophy Department Colloquium Talk, Virginia Polytechnic Institute, Blacksburg, VA.

July 2017. “Race and Medicine,” for the Pittsburgh Summer Program in Philosophy of Science for Underrepresented Groups, Center for Philosophy of Science, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA.

June 2017. “Genuine Kinds as a Solution to Goodman’s New Riddle of Induction,” for PIKSI Boston, M.I.T., Cambridge, MA.

April 2017. “A Race Theory for Medical Genetics,” for the Invited Symposium on Race, 91st Annual Pacific APA Meeting, San Francisco, CA.

April 2017. “How’s it Going for Blacks in Philosophy?,” for the Second Annual Inclusiveness Conference, University of Miami, Miami, FL.

March 2017. “A Radical Solution to the Race Problem,” a lecture for the Victor M. Bearg Science and Humanities Scholars Speaker Series and the University Lecture Series, Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA.

March 2017. “A Race Theory for Metaphysics and Medicine,” a Philosophy Department Colloquium Talk,” Duke University, Durham, NC.

March 2017. “A Race Theory for Metaphysics and Medicine,” a Philosophy Department Colloquium Talk,” Temple University, Philadelphia, PA.

February 2017. “The Rise of Trump... How Did Race Matter?,” at the Trump, Philosophy, and American Politics Conference, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA.

November 2016. “When is a Genetic Cluster a Race?,” a Center for Philosophy of Science Lunchtime Talk, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA.

November 2016. “How Should Race Be Used in Medicine?,” Public Forum, 25th Biennial Meeting of the Philosophy of Science Association, Atlanta, GA.

November 2016. “In Defense of the Actual Metaphysics of Race,” Session 10: Metaphysics Contributed Papers, 25th Biennial Meeting of the Philosophy of Science Association, Atlanta, GA.

September 2016. “The Case for Racial Pluralism,” a Philosophy Department Colloquium,” University of Maryland - Baltimore County, Baltimore, MD.

September 2016. “One View on Race,” Penn Philosophy Symposium, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA.

September 2016. “A Race Theory for Metaphysics and Medicine,” a Philosophy Department Colloquium,” Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY.

June 2016. “An Implication of Using Continental Populations in Preferential Affirmative Action,” Keynote Lecture at the 3rd Barcelona Conference on Gender, Race, and Sexuality, University of Barcelona, Barcelona, Spain.

May 2016. “Racial Pluralism,” a colloquium for the English and Philosophy Department, Drexel University, Philadelphia, PA.

April 2016. “Implications of Using Biological Populations in Preferential Affirmative Action,” Invited Speech for the North American Society for Social Philosophy, Annual Pacific APA Meeting, San Francisco, CA.

December 2015. “Philosophy of Race Meets Population Genetics,” Keynote Address at Boulder Workshop on the Metaphysics of Social Categories, University of Colorado at Boulder, Boulder, CO.

November 2015. “Race, Pluralism, and Biology,” Keynote Address at 9th Annual Ida B. Wells Conference, University of Memphis, Memphis, TN.

October 2015. “Are OMB Races Biological Populations?,” a Philosophy Department Colloquium, Duke University, Durham, NC.

September 2015. “What Kind of Populations Are These?” at Penn Philosophy Symposium, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA.

February 2015. “Tainted Fruit: Comments on Paul Taylor’s *Race: A Philosophical Introduction*” at the 112th Annual Central APA Meeting, St. Louis, MO.

November 2014. “Do Humans Have Continental Populations?” at the 24th Biennial Philosophy of Science Association Meeting, Chicago, IL.

September 2014, “A Radical Solution to the Race Problem,” a Philosophy Department Colloquium, Reed College, Portland, OR.

June 2014, “The Unnatural Racial Naturalism” at the Philosophy of Biology at Madison Workshop, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, WI.

May 2014, “The Meaning of ‘Race’ is Just Its Referent” at The Race Debates... from Philosophy to Biomedical Research Conference, University of San Francisco, CA.

April 2014, “Philosophy of Race Meets Population Genetics,” Closing Keynote Address at Genomics and Philosophy of Race Conference, UC Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz, CA.

April 2014, “Biological Reality and the Problem of Biological Races” a Philosophy Department Colloquium, Lewis & Clark College, Portland, OR.

March 2014, “A Radical Solution to the Race Problem,” a Philosophy Department Colloquium, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA.

December 2013, “How’s It Going for Blacks in Philosophy?” at the 110th Annual Eastern APA Meeting, Baltimore, MD.

November 2013, “Race, Meaning, and Reality: Closing Remarks” at Genomics and Philosophy of Race Workshop, Center for Computational, Evolutionary and Human Genetics, Stanford University, Stanford, CA.

October 2013, “A Radical Solution to the Race Problem,” a Philosophy Department Colloquium, University of Redlands, Redlands, CA.

May 2013, “How’s It Going for Blacks in Philosophy?” at the Diversity in Philosophy Conference, University of Dayton, Dayton, OH.

May 2013, “How to Be a Biological Racial Realist” at a Philosophy Department Colloquium, Department of Philosophy, Stanford University, Stanford, CA.

April 2013. “Population Genetics and the Metaphysics of Race” at an Ecology and Evolution Group Lunch Seminar, Department of Biology, Stanford University, Stanford, CA.

March 2013. “Implicit Instrumentalism and Newtonian Idealization” at the 87th Annual Pacific APA Meeting, San Francisco, CA.

March 2013. “Comments on Speciesism and Religion” at the Speciesism and the Future of Humanity Sawyer Seminar, UC Berkeley, Berkeley, CA.

February 2013. “How to Be a Biological Racial Realist” at the 110th Annual Central APA Meeting, New Orleans, LA.

November 2012. “How to Be a Biological Racial Realist” at the 23rd Biennial Philosophy of Science Association Meeting, San Diego, CA.

October 2012. “How to Be a Biological Racial Realist,” a Philosophy Department Colloquium, UC San Diego, San Diego, CA.

September 2012. “Genetic Genealogy: Friend or Foe?,” Plenary Speech at the 29th Conference of Ford Fellows, Beckman Center of the National Academies of Sciences and Engineering, Irvine, CA.

June 2012. “How to Be a Biological Racial Realist” for the Bay Area Philosophers of Race, University of San Francisco, San Francisco, CA.

April 2012. “How to Be a Biological Racial Realist” for The Pizza Munch Philosophy of Biology Reading Group, California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco, CA.

April 2012. “How to Be a Biological Racial Realist” at The 86th Annual Pacific APA Meeting, Seattle, WA.

March 2012. “Comments on ‘The Dialectical Biologist, circa 1890: Dewey, Mead, and the Oxford Hegelians’” at Pragmatism in Philosophy of Science Conference, University of San Francisco, San Francisco, CA.

October 2011. “How to Be a Biological Racial Realist” at the Phi Sigma Tau Philosophy Colloquium, Chico State University, Chico, CA.

July 2011. “Why There is No Space for Race in Phylogenetics” at The ISHPSSB Biannual Meeting, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, UT.

February 2011. “The Shaky Foundation of Biological Racial Anti-Realism,” for the Race and Philosophy Speaker Series, organized by the Department of Philosophy and the Institute for Research in African-American Studies, Columbia University, New York, NY.

November 2010. “Reexamining the Biological Race Debate” at the Alfred I. Tauber Forum: The Race Debate in Public Health Genomics, The Center for Philosophy and History of Science, Boston University, Boston, MA. Click [Here](#) to Listen.

November 2010. “Why There is No Space for Race in Phylogenetics,” Keynote Address at the 4th Annual Ida B. Wells Conference, Department of Philosophy, Memphis University, Memphis, TN.

October 2010. “An Impossibility Proof for a Genuine Phylogenetic Classification of Race,” at the 7th Annual California Roundtable for Philosophy and Race, Northwestern University, Evanston, IL.

August 2010. “What ‘Biological Racial Realism’ Should Mean” at the Rutgers Summer Institute for Diversity in Philosophy, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ.

February 2010. “A New Perspective on the Cladistic Race Debate” at a Philosophy Department Colloquium, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ.

January 2010. “A New Approach for Evaluating Scientific Classification and an Application to Cladistic Race Theory” for the Bay Area Biosystematists, Carnegie Institution for Science, Stanford University, Stanford, CA.

October 2009. “A New Method for Evaluating Biological Theories of Race” Work In Progress Seminar, Department of Linguistics & Philosophy, MIT, Cambridge, MA.

February 2009. “The Evolution of Darwin’s Idea of Race” at the Darwin Day Symposium, Stanford University, Stanford, CA.

December 2008. “The Idea of a Genuine Kind,” a Philosophy Department Colloquium, University of San Francisco, San Francisco, CA.

April 2008. “Is Cladistic Race a Genuine Kind?” at the New Perspectives in Race Theory Conference, University of San Francisco, San Francisco, CA.

March 2008. “Dissolving the Original Problem of Cladistic Race,” a Philosophy Department Colloquium, University of San Francisco, San Francisco, CA.

September 2006. “A Question about Biological Race and Its Application to Cladistic Race Theory,” at the 3rd Annual California Roundtable on Philosophy and Race, University of San Francisco, San Francisco, CA.

April 2005. “Comments on Troy Duster’s ‘Race and Reification in Science’,” at the Revisiting Race & Ethnicity in the Context of Emerging Genetic Research Workshop, Stanford Humanities Center, Stanford University, Stanford, CA.

Biology

May 2007. “Using CO I+II, rRNA, EF1 α , and G3PD to Reconstruct a Molecular Phylogeny for *Eurema* Butterflies,” a Watt Lab Lunch Talk, Department of Biology, Stanford University, Stanford, CA.

August 1998. “Total Antibody Detection via Radial Immunodiffusion in the Mucosal Immune Response to Trivalent Live Attenuated Intranasal Influenza Vaccine in Children,” at the Division of Pediatric Infectious Diseases, Vanderbilt University School of Medicine, Nashville, TN.

April 1997. “Elucidation of the Involvement of Tyrosine Phosphorylation in the Signal Transduction Mechanism of *Interleukin-16* (IL-16) in U937 Leukemia Cells,” at the Department of Biochemistry, Meharry Medical College, Nashville, TN.

Public Talks

March 2018. Panelist for “Teaching Race: A Roundtable” at Teach-In 2018, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA.

February 2017. “The Rise of Trump... How Did Race Matter?,” at the Trump, Philosophy, and American Politics Conference, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA.

October 2016. Panelist for “Class 3: Genetics and Race,” at the Public Classroom for Science and Race: History, Use, and Abuse, University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology, Philadelphia, PA.

September 2015, “How to Use a Ford Postdoc to Further Your Research,” at 2015 Conference of Ford Fellows, The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, Washington, DC.

April 2015, “Is There Space for Race in Evolutionary Biology?,” for The Philomathean Society, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA.

April 2015, “Getting a Teaching Job in Philosophy,” for the Philosophy PhD students, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA.

November 2012, “Getting a Job at a Teaching College,” for PHIL 260: Teaching Methods, Stanford University, Stanford, CA.

August 2012, (with Michael Hunter) “The P3R Project,” for CS 690: Master’s Project, University of San Francisco, San Francisco, CA.

August 2010. “Being a Philosopher of Science,” at the Rutgers Summer Institute for Diversity in Philosophy, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ.

November 2009. “Philosophy Professor: Getting Paid to Think,” for the Career Series, MIT-Wellesley Upward Bound Program, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Committees

March 2013 - March 2015. Chair of the Board, Board of Officers, Society of Young Black Philosophers.

Jan. 2012 - March 2012. Member, Executive Director Search Committee, APA.

July 2011 - June 2014. Member, Committee on Black Philosophers, APA.

Conferences & Symposia

March 2018. Organizer, *Book Symposium on Michael Hardimon's Rethinking Race: The Case for Deflationary Realism*, an invited symposium at the 92nd Annual Pacific APA Meeting, San Diego, CA.

November 2016. Co-Organizer, *How Should Race Be Used in Medicine?*, a public forum at the 25th Biennial Philosophy of Science Association meeting, Atlanta, GA.

December 2013. Organizer, *Mentoring Early Career Black Philosophers*, The 2013 Eastern APA Meeting, Baltimore, MD.

December 2012. Organizer and Chair, *Race in Population Genetics*, The 2012 Eastern APA Meeting, Atlanta, GA.

November 2012. Organizer, *The State of Race in Population Genetics*, The 23rd Biennial Meeting of the Philosophy of Science Association, San Diego, CA.

May 2011. Co-organizer (with Brent Mishler), *Is There Space for Race in Evolutionary Biology? The 2011 BABS Spring Symposium*, University of San Francisco, see the conference website [here](#).

April 2011. Chair, Politics & Pragmatism Colloquium, 85th Annual Pacific APA Meeting.

Co-organizer (with Graduate Student Science and Technology Studies Writing Group), *Critical Conversations: a Conference on Methods and Practices in Interdisciplinary Science Studies*, Patrick Suppes Center for the Interdisciplinary Study of Science and Technology (CISST), Stanford University, May 2007, view the conference website [here](#).

Refereeing

Editorial Board Member: *Biology and Philosophy*, *Critical Philosophy of Race*, *Ergo: an open access journal of philosophy* (Section Editor for Philosophy of Race), *PhilPapers* (Category Editor for Philosophy of Race)

Guest Editor: *Studies in History and Philosophy of Biological and Biomedical Sciences*

Book Proposal Referee: *Oxford University Press*, *Routledge*, *Wadsworth*, *Westview*

Journal Article Referee: *British Journal for the Philosophy of Science* (2), *Canadian Journal of Philosophy* (1), *Du Bois Review* (1), *Ethics* (1), *Evolution & Development* (1), *Human Biology* (1), *Journal of Philosophical Research* (1), *Philosophy of Science* (3), *Philosophy & Theory in Biology* (1), *Southern Journal of Philosophy* (1), *Studies in History and Philosophy of Biological and Biomedical Sciences* (4)

Reading Groups

Co-founder (with Ron Sundstrom) and Organizer, *Bay Area Philosophy of Race (BAPR) Reading Group*, (Fall 2008 – Fall 2014).

Co-organizer (with Teru Miyake), Isaac Newton Lectures Reading Group (led by George Smith), Patrick Suppes CISST, Stanford University, March 2007.

Other Service

Co-founder and Chair of the Board, *The Society of Young Black Philosophers*, visit our Facebook page [here](#) (founded in Spring 2010).

Fund-raiser, Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy, Fall 2004

AFFILIATIONS: American Philosophical Association, Philosophy of Science Association, International Society for the History, Philosophy, and Social Studies of Biology, Society of Young Black Philosophers.

REFERENCES

---Available Upon Request---