

John E. Drabinski
Amherst College
Department of Black Studies

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<http://jdrabinski.com>

Education

- 1996** **The University of Memphis. Memphis, TN.**
Ph.D., Philosophy, M.A. (1993)
Difference and Sense: The Problem of Relation in the Work of Emmanuel Levinas.
- 1991** **Seattle University. Seattle, WA.**
A.B., Philosophy and English – *magna cum laude* (Great Books Program)

Appointments

- 2016 - present** **Charles Hamilton Houston 1915 Professor**
Amherst College, Amherst, MA
Department of Black Studies
(Chair of department: 2015-2018)
- 2012 – 2016** **Professor**
Amherst College, Amherst, MA
Department of Black Studies
- 2007 – 2012** **Visiting Associate Professor**
Amherst College, Amherst, MA
Department of Black Studies
- 2004 – 2010** **Visiting Associate Professor**
Hampshire College, Amherst, MA
School of Social Science
(jointly appointed with Department of Black Studies, Amherst College)
- 1997-2004** **Assistant Professor,**
Assumption College, Worcester, MA. (2003-2005); Grand Valley State University, Allendale, MI (1999-2003);
University of Houston, Houston, TX (1998-1999); Post-Doctoral Fellow at Center for Advanced Research in
Phenomenology (1997-1998)

Publications

- Books**
- Glissant and the Middle Passage: Philosophy, Beginning, Abyss***
(Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2019)
- Levinas and the Postcolonial: Race, Nation, Other***
(Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2012). Winner of Frantz Fanon Book Prize.
- Godard Between Identity and Difference***
(New York: Continuum, 2008).
- Sensibility and Singularity: The Problem of Phenomenology in Levinas***
(Albany: SUNY Press, 2001).
- In Progress**
- What is the Afro-Postmodern?***
(Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, under contract for 2020)
- 'So Unimaginable a Price': Baldwin and the Black Atlantic***
(Evanston: Northwestern University Press, 70K words and contracted for late-2020)
- In Praise of Creoleness*** (by Jean Bernabé, Patrick Chamoiseau, & Raphael Confiant)
(Albany: SUNY Press, in progress/late-stage for 2020).
Translation of *Éloge de la créolité* with extensive introduction, critical apparatus, and interviews.
- Vicissitudes of Relation: Essays on Atlantic Theory***
(under consideration at Fordham University Press)

Edited Books

Theorizing Glissant: Sites and Citations (w/Marisa Parham)
(New York: Rowman and Littlefield, 2016)

Contributors: Clevis Headley, Marisa Parham, Seanna Oakley, H. Adlai Murdoch, John E. Drabinski, Celia Britton, Hanétha Vété-Congolo, Max Hantel.

Levinas Studies: Levinas, Race, and Racism

(Pittsburgh: Duquesne University Press, 2012)

Contributors: Mary Gallagher, Anjali Prabhu, Oona Eisenstadt, John E. Drabinski, Lisa Guenther, Nelson Maldonado-Torres, Kris Sealey, Grant Farred, and Simone Drichel.

Between Heidegger and Levinas (w/ Eric Nelson)

(Albany: SUNY Press, 2014)

Contributors: François Raffoul, Didier Franck, Krzysztof Ziarek, Ann Murphy, Simon Critchley, Philip Maloney, Eric Nelson, Emilia Angelova, Françoise Dastur, Robert Bernasconi,

Edited Journal Issues

James Baldwin's Lives (w/Grant Farred)

New Centennial Review (Fall 2016)

Contributors: John E. Drabinski, Magdalena Zaboroska, Emily Lordi, Marisa Parham, Grant Farred, and Michele Elam

James Baldwin and Philosophy (w/Grant Farred)

Critical Philosophy of Race 3, no. 2 (2015)

Contributors: John E. Drabinski, Ian Balfour, Jane Gordon, Grant Farred, and Jonathan Eburne.

Special Issue on 'Reconciliation' (w/Jill Stauffer and Sharika Thiranagama)

Humanity 3, no. 2 (2013)

Contributors: Jill Stauffer, Sharika Thiranagama, Zerrin Özlem Biner, Yael Yashin, Mariane Ferme, Diana Allan, Isaías Rojas-Perez, Salomon Lerner, Roger Berkowitz.

Special Issue on 'The Work of Édouard Glissant' (w/Marisa Parham)

The C.L.R. James Journal 18, no. 1 (Summer 2012; corrected edition forthcoming 2015)

Contributors: Clevis Headley, Nick Nesbitt, Seanna Sumalee Oakley, Hanétha Vété-Congolo, Adlai Murdoch, Celia Britton, and Marisa Parham.

Forum on Frantz Fanon's *Wretched of the Earth*, Fifty Years Later

Journal of French and Francophone Philosophy XIX, no. 1 (2011)

Contributors: Anthony Alessandrini, Jane Gordon, Matthieu Renault, Nigel Gibson, Lewis Gordon, Sonia Dayan-Herzbrun, and Anjali Prabhu.

Special Issue on 'Godard and Philosophy' (w/Burlin Barr)

Journal of French and Francophone Philosophy XVIII, no. 2 (2010)

Contributors: David Wills, David Sterritt, Jonathan Dronsfield, Gabriel Rockhill, Burlin Barr, and Michael Walsh.

Chapters in edited books

"Richard Wright and the Problem of Influence"

Richard Wright in Context, ed. Michael Nowlin

(Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, contracted for 2020)

"Decolonizing 'the West'"

Decolonial Thought and American Philosophy, ed. Corey McCall

(Albany: SUNY Press, forthcoming 2020)

"Democracy Between Nihilism and Hope"

African-American Political Thought, eds. Melvin Rogers and Jack Turner

(Chicago: University of Chicago Press, forthcoming 2020)

"Race, Alterity, Dialectics"

Continental Perspectives on Community, ed. Gert-Jan van der Heiden and Chantal Bax

(New York: Routledge, 2019)

"The Poetics of Beautiful Blackness: On Baldwin and Négritude"

James Baldwin in Context, ed. Quentin Miller

(Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2019)

"Deconstruction as Diaspora: On Derrida, Africa, and Identity's Deferral"

Derrida In/And Africa, ed. Grant Farred

(Lanham: Rowman and Littlefield, 2019)

"Locating the Postcolonial Ideal"

'Foreword' to Souleymane Bachir Diagne, *Postcolonial Bergson*

(New York: Fordham University Press, 2019)

"Frantz Fanon" (9200 words)

Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy (2019)

<https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/frantz-fanon>

“Anxieties of Influence in the Black Atlantic,”

The Global South, ed. Russell West-Pavlov
(Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2018)

“Incarnate Historiography and the Politics of Our Faces,”

Phenomenology and the Political, eds. West Gurley and Geoffrey Pfeifer
(New York: Rowman and Littlefield, 2016)

“Orality and the Slave Sublime,”

Caribbean Interorality, ed. Hanétha Vété-Congolo
(New York: Palgrave, 2016)

“Aesthetics and the Abyss,”

Theorizing Glissant: Sites and Citations, eds. John E. Drabinski and Marisa Parham
(New York: Rowman and Littlefield, 2015)

“Levinas as Traveling Theory,”

Relating Art: Between Regionality and Mondiality, eds. Cecilia Sjöholm and Charlotte Bydler
(Stockholm: Södertörn University Press, 2014)

“Poetics of the Mangrove,”

Deleuze and Race, ed. Arun Saldanha.
(Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2014)

“Elsewhere of Home: Race, Nation, and Monolingualism,”

Between Heidegger and Levinas, eds. J. Drabinski and E. Nelson.
(Albany: SUNY Press, forthcoming September 2014)

“Vernacular Solidarity: On Gilroy’s Appropriation of Levinas,”

Levinas Studies: Levinas, Race, and Racism, ed. John E. Drabinski.
(Pittsburgh: Duquesne University Press, 2012)

“Future Interval: On Levinas and Glissant,”

Re-Reading Totality and Infinity, eds. D. Perpich and S. Davidson.
(Pittsburgh: Duquesne University Press, 2011)

“Beginning’s Abyss,”

After the Death of a Certain God: On Nietzsche and Levinas, eds. B. Bergo and J. Stauffer.
(New York: Columbia University Press, 2009)

“The Everyday Miracle of the Occasional Community,”

Philosophy and Popular Culture VII, ed. Steven Gimbel.
(Chicago: Open Court, 2007)

“Wealth and Justice in a U-topian Context,”

Addressing Levinas, eds. Antje Kapust, Eric Nelson, and Kent Still.
(Evanston: Northwestern University Press, 2005).

“The Problem of *Sinnggebung* in Levinas and Marion,”

Emmanuel Levinas: Critical Assessments, Volume Two, ed. Claire Katz.
(New York: Routledge, 2005). **Reprinted** from *Conflicts and Convergences*, eds. Merold Westphal and Linda Alcoff. Special Issue of *Philosophy Today*, (Supplement 1999): 31-46.

“The Possibility of an Ethical Politics: From Peace to Liturgy,”

Emmanuel Levinas: Critical Assessments, Volume Four, ed. Claire Katz.
(New York: Routledge, 2005). **Reprinted** from *Philosophy and Social Criticism* 26, no. 4 (2000): 49-73.

Journal Articles

“Pessimism, Everydayness, and Vernacular Memory”

Journal of the African Literature Association 14 (forthcoming 2020)

“Sites of Relation and *tout-monde*: Reflections on Glissant’s Late Work”

Angelaki: Journal of the Theoretical Humanities 23, no. 4 (2019): 157-172.

“Intimacies, Supplements, Entanglements: Palestine and *l’autru*”

Journal of the Society for Contemporary Thought and the Islamicate World (February 2019): 1-16.

“Reproduction and the Universal in Glissant’s Later Work”

New Centennial Review 18.3 (2018)

“Césaire’s Apocalyptic Word”

South Atlantic Quarterly 115, no. 3 (2016)

“Senghor’s Anxiety of Influence”

Journal of French and Francophone Philosophy 24, no. 1 (2016)

“Baldwin’s Three Africans”

New Centennial Review 16, no. 3 (2016)

- "Baldwin and the Private Life of Resistance"**
James Baldwin Review 1, no. 1 (2015)
- "Vernaculars of Home,"**
Critical Philosophy of Race 3, no. 2 (2015)
- "Reconciliation and Founding Wounds,"**
Humanity 3, no. 2 (2013)
- "That Gesture of Recognition": Interview with Salomon Lerner,"** (introduction and translation from Spanish)
Humanity 3, no. 2 (2013)
- "Fanon's Two Memories,"**
South Atlantic Quarterly 112:1 (Winter 2013): 5-22
- "Aesthetics and the Abyss,"**
The C.L.R. James Journal 18, no. 1 (Summer 2012)
- "Affect and Revolution: On Baldwin and Fanon,"**
PhaenEx 7, no. 1 (2012): 124-158.
- "Shorelines"**
Journal of French and Francophone Philosophy XIX, no. 1 (2011)
- "Philosophy as a Kind of Cinema,"**
Journal of French and Francophone Philosophy XVIII, no. 2 (Fall 2010)
- "What is Trauma to the Future? On Glissant's Poetics,"**
Qui Parle 18, vol. 2 (Spring/Summer 2010)
- "Who are his poor? Reading Levinas with Rancière,"**
International Studies in Philosophy XXXIX, vol. 4 (2009): 1-14.
- "Separation, Difference, and Time in Godard's *Ici et ailleurs*,"**
SubStance 115, vol. 37, no. 1 (2008): 148-158.
- "Reconsidering Adorno,"**
Klesis: Revue Phenomenologique (Avril 2008): 105-116.
- "Subjectivity and the Problem of Political Debt,"**
Levinas Studies: An Annual Review (2008)
- "The Enigma of the Cartesian Infinite,"**
Studia Phaenomenologica VI (2006): 210-226.
- "From Representation to Materiality,"**
International Studies in Philosophy XXX, vol. 4 (1998): 23-38.
- "Experience as Flesh: On Merleau-Ponty and James,"**
Phenomenological Inquiry 21 (1998): 137-155.
- "The Hither-Side of the Living-Present in Levinas and Husserl,"**
Phenomenology and Beyond, eds. Lenore Langsdorf and John Caputo.
 Special Issue of *Philosophy Today*, (Supplement 1996): 142-150.
- "The Status of the Transcendental in Levinas' Thought,"**
Philosophy Today 38, no. 3 (1994): 123-136.
- "Radical Empiricism and Phenomenology: Philosophy and the Pure Stuff of Experience,"**
Journal of Speculative Philosophy 7, no. 3 (1993): 226-242.
- "Husserl's Critique of Empiricism and the Phenomenological Account of Reflection,"**
Southwestern Philosophy Review 9, no. 1 (January 1993): 91-104.
- "Between Representation and Being,"**
Skepticon 1, no. 1 (1993): 57-72.

Reviews

- Review Essay: Donna V. Jones, *The Racial Discourses of Life Philosophy*,**
Journal of French and Francophone Philosophy XIX, no. 2 (Fall 2011): 180-188.
- "Alfred Schutz: Bibliography of Secondary Sources,"**
Alfred Schutz's Theory of Social Science, ed. Lester Embree. (Dordrecht: Kluwer Academic, 2000.)
- "Review Essay: Richard A. Cohen, *Elevations: Height of the Good in Rosenzweig and Levinas*,"**
Shofar: An Interdisciplinary Journal of Jewish Studies 16, no. 1 (Fall 1997): 157-160.
- "Review Essay: Kathleen Haney, *Intersubjectivity Revisited: Phenomenology and the Other*,"**
Husserl Studies 12, no. 1 (1995): 81-91.

Awards & Residencies

- 2017-2018** **Special Faculty Research Grant**
Amherst College, Amherst, MA
- 2016-2017** **Senior Sabbatical Fellowship**
Amherst College, Amherst, MA
- Feb 2015** **A.W. Mellon Visiting Fellow**
Department of Religion and Centre for African Studies
University of Cape Town, Cape Town, SA
- 2013-2014** **Shelia Biddle Ford Foundation Fellow**
W.E.B. Du Bois Institute
Harvard University, Cambridge MA
- 2013-2014** **Senior Sabbatical Fellowship**
Amherst College, Amherst, MA
- 2007** **School of Humanities, Arts, and Cultural Studies Faculty Development Grant**
Hampshire College, Amherst, MA
- 2005-2006** **Centennial Scholarship Fund/Summer Research Grant**
Assumption College, Worcester, MA
- 2002** **School of Arts and Humanities Teaching Award**
Grand Valley State University, Allendale, MI
- 2001, 2002** **School of Arts and Humanities Summer Research Award**
Grand Valley State University, Allendale, MI
- 2000** **School of Criticism and Theory**
Certificate of Completion
Cornell University, Ithaca, NY
- 1997-1998** **Postdoctoral Research Fellow,**
Center for Advanced Research in Phenomenology
Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton, FL
- 1994-1996** **Spindel Dissertation Writing Fellowship**
University of Memphis, Memphis, TN
- School of Arts and Sciences Graduate Student Teaching Award**
University of Memphis, Memphis, TN
- 1992** **Douglas Greenlee Prize/ Best Essay by a Graduate Student or Recent PhD.**
Society for the Advancement of American Philosophy, for "Du Bois Against the *Lebenswelt*"

Speakers & Symposia

- Mar 2019** **Rethinking the Black Intellectual Tradition: Pessimism as Interpretative Frame**
Participants: David Marriott, M. Shadee Malaklou, Axelle Karera, Bhakti Shringarpure, Rizvana Bradley, Neil Roberts, Melvin Rogers, Calvin Warren.
- Apr 2018** **Rethinking the Black Intellectual Tradition: The Question of Medium (w/Marisa Parham)**
Participants: Mark Anthony Neal, Marisa Parham, Michael Gillespie, Christina Knight, Stephanie Sparling Williams, Ashon Crawley, John Drabinski, Anthony Reed.
- Apr 2018** **Charles Hamilton Houston Visiting Scholar**
Mark Anthony Neal, Duke University.
Public lecture, faculty seminar, coordinated symposium
- Nov 2017** **Emerging Scholars in Black Studies Lecture**
Kimberly Harris, Penn State University
Public lecture, seminar with students and faculty
- Oct 2017** **Decolonization in Comparative Context (w/Kiara Vigil & Christopher Dole)**
Participants: Anjali Prabhu, George Ciccariello-Maher, Kehaulani Kauanui, Mark Rifkin, Jodi Byrd, Kyle Mays, Glen Coulthard, Anthony Alessandrini, Muriam Haleh Davis, Rana Baraket, Grant Farred, Kris Sealey, Abdul JanMohamed.

- Apr 2017** **Africa | Philosophy | Violence**
Participants: Jean-Paul Martinon, Pierre-Philippe Fraiture, Grant Farred, John Drabinski, Axelle Karera, Daniel Orrells, Kasereka Kavawahieri.
- Dec 2016** **Visiting Speaker**
Ashanté Reese, Spelman College
Public lecture, seminar with students
- Nov 2016** **Visiting Speaker**
Olufemi Vaughan, Bowdoin College
Public lecture
- Dec 2016** **Visiting Speaker**
Charisse Burden-Stelly, University of California, Berkeley
Public lecture
- Apr 2015** **Translation and the Black Atlantic**
Achille Mbembe, Wits University
Abdul JanMohamed, UC-Berkeley
Paul Gilroy, King's College
Each: public lecture, faculty seminar; public conversation facilitated by John Drabinski
- Mar 2015** **James Baldwin's Lives** (w/Marisa Parham)
Participants: Michele Elam, Grant Farred, Douglas Fields, Marisa Parham, Quentin Miller, Kenneth Surin, Magdalena Zaborowska, John Drabinski
- Mar 2015** **Screening and Q & A**
The Price of the Ticket (documentary on James Baldwin)
Q & A with Karen Thorsen and Douglas Dempsey, filmmakers
- Apr 2015** **Black Power, Gender, Sexuality**
Participants: Tommy J. Curry, Marisa Parham, Khary Polk
- Apr 2014** **Créolité in Sound and Image**
Participants: Rhonda Cobham-Sander, Adlai Murdoch, Anjali Prabhu, Marisa Parham, Jacqueline Lazu
- Dec 2012** **Visiting Speakers in Dialogue**
Participants: Tommy Shelby, Harvard University; Rebecka Rutledge, University of North Carolina
- Apr 2012** **Comparative Créolité**
Participants: Faith Smith, Hanétha Vété-Congolo, Valérie Loichot, Natalie Melas, Silvio Torres-Saillant

Recent Presentations

- Invited lectures** (since 2010)
- “Vernacular Culture and the Problem of Belonging**
Williamstown, MA, April 2019
Invited by Department of Africana Studies, Williams College
- “Loss as Philosophical Event”**
Indianapolis, IN, March 2019
Invited by Society for French Historical Studies
- “James Baldwin’s Double Session”**
Savannah, Georgia, January 2018
Invited by Society for Advancement of American Philosophy, APA Caucus
- “Re-theorizing Optimism After Baldwin”**
Tuscaloosa, AL, November 2017
Invited by Department of Political Science, University of Alabama
- “Baldwin and the Black Atlantic”**
Nijmegen, The Netherlands, May 2017
Invited by Center for Contemporary European Philosophy, University of Nijmegen
- “Necropolitics and Anti-Racist Violence”**
Los Angeles, CA, April 2017
Invited by Department of African-American Studies, UCLA

“Créolité after Surrealism”

Baton Rouge, LA, February 2015

Invited by Department of French, Louisiana State University

“Baldwin’s Peculiar Afro-Optimism”

New York City, NY, February 2015

Invited by Center for the Humanities, CUNY Graduate Center

“On Decolonizing the Colonizer”

New Orleans, LA, November 2014

Invited by Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy

“The Private Life of Resistance”

Los Angeles, CA, November 2014

Invited by American Studies Association

Lecture series: “The Book and The Sea”

University of Cape Town, Cape Town, SA, 7-21 February 2014

Invited by Department of Religion and Centre for African Studies

“Apocalypse and Beginning in Césaire’s *Cahiers*”

Durham, NC, October 2013

Invited by Program in Francophone Studies, Duke University

“Creolization and the Decolonization of *Francophonie*”

New York City, NY, April 2013

Invited by Department of Philosophy, Fordham University

“The Book and the Sea: Memory, Figure, Diaspora”

New York, NY, April 2013

Invited by Levinas Research Seminar (SUNY-Stony Brook host)

“Memory and Abject Labor in Washington and Du Bois”

Atlanta, GA, March 2013

Invited by Collegium for African-American Research (organizers)

“Levinas after Fanon”

Rochester, NY, November 2012

Invited by Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy (organizers)

“Orality and the Slave Sublime”

Bowdoin College, Brunswick, ME, October 2012

Invited by Department of French

“Symposium on *Levinas and the Postcolonial*”

University of Alaska, Anchorage, AK, May 2012

Invited by North American Levinas Society (annual meeting)

“Irony and Colonialism: Fanon’s Afterlife”

McGill University, Montréal, ON, April 2012

Invited panel The Art and Politics of Irony (conference)

“Levinas as Traveling Theory”

Södertörn University, Stockholm, Sweden, March 2012

Invited by Department of Philosophy & Department of Aesthetics

“Reconciliation and Founding Wounds”

University of Toronto, Toronto, ON, April 2011

Invited by Centre for Ethics

“Decolonizing Levinas’ Ethics”

Pennsylvania State University, State College, PA, April 2010

Invited by Departments of Philosophy, Comparative Literature, African and African American Studies

“Reconciliation and Interstitial Politics”

Haverford College, Philadelphia, PA, April 2010.

Invited by the Department of Philosophy

Professional Service

National

Referee-Judge (2018 to present)
Ford Foundation Fellowship Program

Referee (2015-2018)
American Council of Learned Societies

Co-Editor, *Journal of French and Francophone Philosophy* (2010 to present)
(University of Pittsburgh Press, Pittsburgh, PA.)

Editorial Board, *Series in Phenomenology and Phenomenological Studies*, (2000 to 2010)
(Noesis Press. Seattle, WA.)

Technical Editor, Kluwer Academic Publishers
The Existential Phenomenology of Simone de Beauvoir. Dorothy Leland, ed.;
The Phenomenology of Edmund Husserl. Dorion Cairns;
Alfred Schutz's Theory of Social Science. Lester Embree, ed.

at Amherst College

College Council
Member (2018-present) and Chair (2019-present)

Committee on African Studies in the Curriculum
Member (2017-2019)

Faculty Lecture Committee
Member (2015-2018) and Chair (2017-2018)

Copeland Fellowship Program (w/Ilan Stavans)
Co-Director (2014-2015)

Professional Memberships

American Philosophical Association, Modern Language Association, Caribbean Philosophical Association, American Society for Aesthetics, Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy, American Comparative Literature Association, Society for the Advancement of American Philosophy, The Husserl Circle, Levinas Research Seminar, Society for Continental Philosophy in a Jewish Context, North American Levinas Society.

Recent courses taught at Amherst College

Wright-Ellison-Baldwin
The Afro-Postmodern
Black Existentialism
The Creole Imagination

Incarcerating Blackness
Single figure seminars: Du Bois, Baldwin, Fanon, & Angela Davis
Spike Lee's Joints
Black Power, Black Panther

I hereby certify that all material documented in this cv is accurate



John E. Drabinski