

Ruha Benjamin, Ph.D.

Boston University
Department of Sociology
96-100 Cummington Mall
Boston, Massachusetts 02215

Ph: (617) 358-6280
Fax: (617) 353-4837
Email: ruha@bu.edu

POSITIONS

Boston University, Boston, MA.

Assistant Professor. July 2010-present.
Department of Sociology and African American Studies Program.

Harvard University, Cambridge, MA

Visiting Fellow. Sept 2012 - May 2013.
Program on Science, Technology, and Society.

University of California, Los Angeles, CA.

Postdoctoral Fellow. Sept 2008- Sept 2010.
Center for Society and Genetics.

EDUCATION

PhD University of California, Berkeley, CA. Sociology, 2008.

Dissertation: "Culturing Consent: Science and Democracy in the Stem Cell State."
Committee: Troy Duster (chair), Charis Thompson, and Loic Wacquant.
Qualifying Fields: Social Theory; Science; Gender, w/ emphasis on Race & Postcoloniality.

MA University of California, Berkeley, CA. Sociology, 2004.

BA Spelman College, Atlanta, GA. Sociology and Anthropology, 2001, *summa cum laude*.

IB United World College of Southern Africa, Waterford Kamhlaba. International Baccalaureate, 1996.

PUBLICATIONS

Book Manuscripts

2013. *People's Science: Reconstituting Bodies & Rights on the Stem Cell Frontier*. Stanford University Press.

Provincializing Science: Mapping & Marketing Ethnoracial Diversity in the Genomic Age (in-preparation).

Peer-Reviewed Articles

2011. Organized Ambivalence: When Stem Cell Research & Sickle Cell Disease Converge. *Ethnicity & Health*, 16 (4-5): 447-463.

2012. Reprinted as Ch 11: *Genetics and Global Public Health: Sickle Cell and Thalassaemia*, Simon Dyson and Karl Atkin (eds).

2009. A Lab of Their Own: Genomic Sovereignty as Postcolonial Science Policy. *Policy & Society* 28(4): 341-355.

TEACHING & ADVISING

Boston University, Boston, MA.

Sociology of Race & Ethnicity, 2010-ongoing, Instructor.
Science, Race, & Society, 2010-ongoing, Instructor.
Race, Ethnic, & Minority Relations, 2011-ongoing, Instructor.

University of California, Los Angeles, CA

Race, Science, and Citizenship. Sociology and Society & Genetics | Spring '09. Instructor.
Political Sociology of Science. Public Policy and Society & Genetics | Spring '10. Co-Instructor.
Center for Society & Genetics Undergraduate Research Opportunity | Sept '09-June '10. Research Advisor.

University of California, Berkeley, CA

Proseminar: Graduate School Preparation for Undergraduates | Fall '07/Spring '08. Instructor.
Introduction to Sociology with Prof. Raka Ray | Fall '06. Teaching Assistant.
Sociology of Health, Medicine and Illness with Prof. Trond Petersen | Spring '06. Reader.
Principles of Sociology with Prof. Brian Powers | Summer and Fall '04. Reader.
Principles of Sociology with Prof. Mary Kelsey | Summer '04. Reader.
UC Berkeley Haas Scholars Program | June '07 -May '08. Research Advisor.
UC Berkeley-Atlanta University Consortium Exchange Program | Jan-June '07. Research Advisor.

FELLOWSHIPS

American Council for Learned Societies Fellowship, 2012-13
National Science Foundation Graduate Fellowship, 2004-07.
California Institute for Regenerative Medicine Dissertation Research Fellowship, 2006-07.
Ford Foundation Predoctoral Diversity Graduate Fellowship, 2002-05.
UC Berkeley Graduate Opportunity Fellowship, *declined*, 2002.

GRANTS

Jewish Cultural Endowment Symposium Grant, 2012
Boston University Morris Faculty Grant, 2012
Academic Enhancement Fund Fall 2011 and Spring 2012
UC Berkeley Center for Race and Gender Dissertation Research Grant, 2007.
Townsend Center Stem Cells and the Humanities Dissertation Research Grant, 2005.
Presidential Scholar Award, Spelman College, 1997-2001.

AWARDS & HONORS

Valedictorian Spelman College, 2001.
Mortar Board National Honor Society, 2001.
Phi Beta Delta Honor Society for International Scholars, 2001.
Golden Key National Honor Society, 2000.
Phi Beta Kappa National Honor Society, 2000.
YWCA College Woman of the Year Award, 2000.

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

2012

“Sankofa Science-Making: a new-old toolkit for designing participatory science”. *Society for Social Studies of Science Annual Meeting* | Copenhagen, Denmark. Oct.

“Los más europeos”: what to make of the persistence of whiteness in population genomics? Invited Speaker. *UCLA Workshop on Biohistories: Biological markers and human population in historical context.* | LA, CA, May.

“Architectures for Life” Science & Democracy Symposium. Invited Panelist. *Harvard University Program on Science, Technology and Society* | Cambridge, MA. April.

2011

“White Codes: Mapping Biological Race in the Postcolony”. Invited Speaker. *University of Amsterdam Conference on Race/Whiteness in Comparative Perspective* | Amsterdam, Netherlands. Dec.

“Provincializing Science: Genomic Sovereignty and the Mapping & Marketing of Ethnoracial Diversity”. Invited Panelist. *Tarrytown Meetings* | Tarrytown, NY. July.

“The Emperor’s New Drugs: Ethnic Niche Markets and Genomic Sovereignty After BiDiI”. Invited Panelist. *Tarrytown Meetings* | Tarrytown, NY. July.

“Provincializing Science: Racial Thought and Human Difference”. Invited Speaker. *University of Warwick Research Symposia on Postcolonial Cosmopolitanisms* | Coventry, United Kingdom. May.

“A Lab of Their Own: Genomic Sovereignty as Postcolonial Science Policy?” Invited Speaker. *Harvard University Program on Science, Technology and Society* | Cambridge, MA. April.

“Race for Cures: Mapping & Marketing Ethnoracial Diversity”. Invited Speaker. *Brown University Race & Genomics Lecture Series* | Providence, RI. April.

“‘Disparity’ in Our BioPolitical Imagination: Mapping the Future of Medicine on the History of Race”. Co-organizer and speaker. *Boston University African American Studies Annual Symposium* | Boston, MA. Feb.

2010

“Ethnic Drugs as Public Health?” *Boston Colloquium for the Philosophy of Science. Alfred I. Tauber Forum on The* Invited Speaker. *Race Debate in Public Health Genomics* | Boston, MA. Nov.

“Ambivalence-in-Action: Racial & Gendered Genealogies of Stem Cell Recruitment & Resistance”. *Science, Knowledge, and Technology Session. American Sociological Association* | Atlanta, GA. Aug.

“Reporting Genetics and Aboriginal Health”. Invited Panelist. *University of British Columbia School of Journalism and Genome British Columbia* | Vancouver, Canada. March.

“Race for Cures: Black Bodies and the Production of Uncertainty at Medicine’s Frontier”. Invited Speaker. *UCLA Ralph J. Bunche African American Studies Program Circle of Thought Forum* | Los Angeles, CA. Feb.

2004-2009

“The Privatization of Science: Commercialized Knowing and its Discontents” Invited Panelist. *Society for Social Studies of Science Annual Meeting* | Washington D.C. Oct. '09.

“New and Emerging Claims for the Biological Basis of Social Behavior: Political Implications for the Sociological Community”. Invited Panelist for Special Session. *American Sociological Association* | SF, CA. Aug. '09.

“Scientific Pioneering and Insurgent Political Frames”. *UC Berkeley Center for Race and Gender Colloquium Series* | Berkeley, CA. Sept. '07.

“Frontier Notes: Settler and Native Accounts of Stem Cell Science”. *UC Berkeley Stem Cell Center Asilomar Retreat* | Monterey, CA. May '07.

“Fixing Race: Minority Health Advocacy and the Politics of Therapy”. *Science, Technology, Ethics, and Law Association Colloquium* | Berkeley, CA. April '07.

“Why Aren't More Cord Blood Transplants Performed For Children with Sickle Cell Anemia?” *National Sickle Cell Disease Program Annual Meeting* | Memphis, TN. April '06.

“Are Your Hands Clean? Social and Political Implications of the New Genetic and Reproductive Technologies”. *Spelman College Toni Cade Bambara Annual Conference* | Atlanta, GA. March '06.

“Bush Science vs. Pure Science: Nature, Nation, and the Supernatural Converge”. *Crossing Borders Ethnic Studies Conference* | Los Angeles, CA. March '06.

“Racing Categories, Categorizing Race”. *Columbia University Conf. on Categories* | New York, NY. Oct '04.

“Anything But Free: Politics of containment, public health care, and premature death” with Osagie K. Obasogie. *American Sociological Association* | San Francisco, CA. Aug. '04.

Discussant, Panel Moderator, and Guest Lecturer

2012

Exploring David Mamet's Comedy Race: “What is truth? What are lies?” A Conversation about Race in America, Invited Panelist. *New Repertory Theatre Spotlight Symposium Series* with WGBH | Watertown, MA. Oct.

Author Meets Critics, *Contested Reproduction: Genetic Technologies, Religion, and Public Debate* by John H. Evans., Invited Panelist. *American Sociological Association* | Denver, CO, August.

Medical Sociology Regular Session Panel Moderator, *American Sociological Association* | Denver, CO. Aug.

“Black Power Mixtape 1967-75” film screening organizer and moderator. *Boston University African American Studies Program* | Boston, MA. Feb.

2011

“Occupy Boston” Faculty Teach-in Panelist, *Boston University* | Boston, MA. Nov.

“Education Under Fire” film screening organizer and Panel Moderator *Boston University* | Boston, MA. Nov.

“Race and Criminalization” Guest Lecture, *Simmons College* | Boston, MA. Oct.

2006-2010

“Ethical Itineraries of Science & Medicine: Culture & Technology in a Global World”. Discussant. *Harvard University Undergraduate Research Symposium* | Cambridge, MA. Dec. '10.

“Race, Genetics, and the Genome Project”. Discussant. *American Sociological Association Section on Racial & Ethnic Minorities* | Atlanta, GA. Aug. '10.

“Global comparisons of public health genomics–new articulations of populations and citizenship”. London School of Economics Chair and Discussant. *Vital Politics III: The Politics of the Life Sciences in an ‘Age of Biological Control’* | London, UK. Sept. ’09.

“Towards a Reconceptualization of Borders”. Chair and Discussant. *National Association for Ethnic Studies Annual Meeting* | San Diego, CA. April ;09.

“The Political as Personal: Lay Expertise in Science Policy Advocacy”. Guest Lecture. UCLA Science Policy & Expertise course | Los Angeles, CA, Fall ’08.

“Then and Now: The Changing Conditions of Scientific Knowledge Production”. Guest Lecture. UC Berkeley, Bioengineering course | Berkeley, CA. April ’07.

“The Social and Political Implications of Stem Cell Research and Therapies”. Guest Lecture. UC Berkeley, Biology course | Berkeley, CA. Feb 2006 and Sept ’07.

Panel on “Beyond Affirmative Action”. Discussant. *Changing the Culture of the Academy Graduate Division Conference* | Berkeley, CA. March ’07.

Panel on “Publics, Advocacy, and Practices of Science”. Chair. *Ethical Worlds of Stem Cell Medicine*, UC Berkeley/ UC San Francisco | San Francisco, CA. Sept ’06.

Panel on “Power”. Chair and Discussant. *Berkeley Journal of Sociology* 50th Annual Conf | Berkeley, CA. March ’06.

“How Cancer Crossed the Colorline”. Discussant. Talk by Dr. Keith Wailoo, UC Berkeley Anthropology Department colloquium | Berkeley, CA. Feb ’06.

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES & AFFILIATIONS

Professional Service

American Sociological Association: Science, Knowledge, and Technology (SKAT) Section Merton Book Award Committee (2013); Medical Sociology Regular Session Organizer (2012);
National Science Foundation: Peer Review Grant Panelist, Ad-hoc Proposal Reviewer;
Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC): Ad-hoc Proposal Reviewer;
Journal Manuscript Reviewer: Social Science and Medicine; Sociological Quarterly; Science as Culture; Biosocieties; Sociology;
Book Manuscript Reviewer: Columbia University Press

University Service

Dean’s Summer Leadership Series, June 2012, Invited workshop leader
BU Multicultural Weekend “Coffee & Conversation” with Dean Elmore, April 2012, Invited speaker
Admissions Office off-campus admitted student panel, Baltimore, MD, April 2012, Invited speaker
BU student-led event on racial profiling, April 2012, Invited speaker
Martin Luther King Jr. Annual Program, Jan 2012, Invited speaker
UMOJA (Black Student Union), 2011-12, Faculty Co-advisor
Multicultural Diversity Weekend reception for prospective students, April 2011, April 2012, Participant

Department Service

Annual Merit Review Committee, Spring 2012
Morris Fund Grant Review Committee, Spring 2012
Undergraduate Program Committee Member, 2011-12
Undergraduate Academic Advisor, 2011-12
Dissertation Committee Member, Cara Bowman
International Student Master’s Thesis Advisor, Jelena Stankovic (University of Padua, Italy.) Spring 2012

Media

2012

CNN Health, quoted in “The Power of Perceptions: Imagining the reality you want”, April 14.
Reprinted in WCVB TV BostonChannel.com.

New York Times, photo of my class in “Death of Florida Teen Spurs Outcry and Action”, March 21.

Daily Free Press, quoted in: “Students express concerns about racial profiling”, April 12;

“Students wear hoodies, demonstrate against Trayvon Martin’s death”, March 26;

“BU community reflects on King legacy, present-day struggles”, Jan 17.

Howard Thurman Center Common Thread Podcast, guest panelist “The Color of Hate”, March 30.

Good Magazine, quoted in “Trayvon Martin Could Have Been One of My Kids”, March 20: Reprinted in
“Dissecting Geraldo Rivera’s Hoodie Comment”. *DCentric: Race, Class, the District*, March 23.

2011

The Quad: BU’s Independent Online Magazine, quoted in “BU Occupies Boston Teach-In: Professors
Contextualize A Modern Movement”, Dec. 2.

The Daily Free Press, quoted in: “Professors discuss inequality, college debt at Occupy ‘Teach-in’, Dec 1;
“The Office’ star Rainn Wilson promotes education, equality”, Nov 16.

BUTV *On That Point* television program, guest speaker on “Postracialism”, April.

ADDITIONAL RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Principal Researcher	Families’ Decisions to Undergo or Decline Cord Blood Transplantation. <i>Children’s Hospital Oakland</i> April 2007-April 2008.
Research Consultant	Science Diversity Program Evaluation <i>UC Berkeley Physics Department</i> w/ Dr. Colette Patt April 2005-Aug 2005.
Research Assistant	Images of Alcohol, Drugs and Violence in Rap Music <i>UC Berkeley, School of Public Health</i> w/ Dr. Denise Herd July 2004-July ‘06.
Principal Researcher	Under-Represented Minority Graduate Student Retention Study <i>UC Berkeley Graduate Division</i> w/ Dr. Elaine Kim Oct 2002-Dec 2003.

ADDITIONAL TRAINING

Harvard University Stem Cell Ethics and Policy, Summer Seminar, 2009.

University of California at Berkeley Workshop on Qualitative Data Management Software, Center for Urban Ethnography. 2007.

University of California at Berkeley Workshop on Extended Case Method, Department of Sociology Dept with Professor Michael Burawoy. 2007.