



# The Future of Minority Studies

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

## Difficult Dialogues

SPELMAN COLLEGE

*September 19-20, 2008*



“QUEREMOS UN MUNDO  
DONDE QUEPAN  
MUCHOS MUNDOS.”

“WE WANT ONE WORLD,  
ONE THAT CAN ACCOMMODATE  
MANY WORLDS.”

—THE ZAPATISTAS, CHIAPAS, MEXICO



The Future of Minority Studies Research Project (FMS) was initiated in 2000 by a group of scholars and academic institutions with a primary interest in minority identity, education, and social transformation. FMS is organized as a mobile think tank designed to facilitate focused and productive discussions across disciplines. These discussions focus on the role of higher education in a multicultural democracy and the need for an adequate conception of minority identities as the basis for progressive social change. As of 2008, the FMS Project and Summer Institute have included participants from over eighty-five colleges and universities. For more information, go to: [www.fmsproject.cornell.edu](http://www.fmsproject.cornell.edu)

# Difficult Dialogues

September 19-20, 2008

COSBY ACADEMIC CENTER AUDITORIUM,  
SPELMAN COLLEGE

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“Difficult Dialogues” has come to characterize explorations of complex socio-cultural issues from personal, political, and theoretical perspectives and realities. This construct seems to have first gained currency in the aftermath of a 1989 article by Johnnella Butler in the *Women’s Review of Books*, titled “Difficult Dialogues.” In this essay she used the term “difficult dialogues” to describe the work in the academy of incorporating race and culture into Women’s Studies, and gender and sexual identity into Black/Ethnic Studies. This conference continues to engage in difficult dialogues around a broad range of issues, bringing together the theoretical, experiential, political, and the social from a variety of perspectives.

## Friday, September 19

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- 8:00am** *Bus Pick-up from Embassy Suites  
(Bus schedule may be adjusted during conference)*
- 8:30 – 9:00am** **CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST**  
Lobby, First Floor, Cosby Academic Center, Spelman College
- 9:00 – 9:30am** **WELCOME/OPENING REMARKS ON DIFFICULT DIALOGUES**  
*Provost Johnella Butler (Spelman College)*  
**GREETINGS** *Beverly Guy-Sheftall (Spelman College)*
- 9:45 – 11:30am** **“BIRTHING RACIAL DIFFERENCE: CONVERSATIONS WITH MY MOTHER AND OTHERS”**  
*Gail Lewis (Open University, UK)*
- 11:30am – 1:30pm** **LUNCH**  
Manley College Center, Atrium
- 1:30 – 3:00pm** **“PROGRESSIVE MASCULINITIES”**  
*Michael Hames-Garcia (University of Oregon)*  
*Mark Anthony Neal (Duke University)*  
*Gary L. Lemons (University of South Florida)*  
*MODERATOR: Kenneth McClane (Cornell University)*
- 3:00 – 3:30pm** **BREAK**
- 3:30 – 5:15pm** **“CHALLENGES OF BUILDING COALITIONS AMONG FEMINISTS OF COLOR”**  
*M. Jacqui Alexander (University of Toronto)*  
*Cherrie Moraga (Stanford University)*  
*MODERATOR: Beverly Guy-Sheftall (Spelman College)*
- 5:30pm** *Bus Pick-up to hotel*
- 7:30pm** *Bus Pick-up from hotel*
- 7:30 – 10:00pm** **DINNER AND ENTERTAINMENT**  
Spelman College Atrium
- 10:30pm** *Bus Pick-up*

# Saturday, September 20

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- 8:00 am** *Bus Pick-up from Embassy Suites*
- 8:30 – 9:00 am** **CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST**  
Lobby, First Floor, Cosby Academic Center, Spelman College
- 9:00 – 10:45am** **“WHITENESS IN THE ACADEMY”**  
*Paula Rothenberg (Murphy Institute, CUNY)*  
*Mona Phillips (Spelman College)*  
*Cynthia Spence (Spelman College)*  
*MODERATOR: Amie Macdonald (John Jay College/CUNY)*
- 11:00am – 1:00pm** **WORKSHOP ON STRUCTURAL RACISM:  
AFFIRMATIVE ACTION AROUND THE WORLD**  
*Kimberle Crenshaw (UCLA and Columbia University)*  
*Luke Harris (Vassar College)*
- 1:00 – 2:30pm** **LUNCH**  
Manley College Center, Atrium
- 2:30 – 4:00pm** **FMS BOOK PROJECTS**  
*CHAired BY: Satya P. Mohanty (Cornell University) and  
John Su (Marquette University)*  
  
*Michael Borgstrom (San Diego State University)*  
*Tyrone Simpson (Vassar College)*
- 4:00 – 4:15pm** **BREAK**
- 4:15 – 5:45pm** **“DIFFICULT DIALOGUES IN THE CLASSROOM”**  
*Rabab Abdulhadi (San Francisco State University)*  
*Linda Carty (Syracuse University)*  
*William Darity (Duke University)*  
*MODERATOR: Chandra Talpade Mohanty (Syracuse University)*
- 6:00 – 7:00pm** **CONFERENCE CLOSING/RECEPTION**  
President Beverly Daniel Tatum’s Residence: Reynolds Cottage
- 7:15pm** *Bus Pick-up to Embassy Suites*  
*Dinner on your own (listing to be provided)*



# The Future of Minority Studies

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

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The FMS national conference is sponsored by Spelman College and cosponsored by: Emory University; FMS @ Michigan/University of Michigan; FMS @ Syracuse/Syracuse University; FMS @ Oregon/University of Oregon Center for Race, Ethnicity, and Sexuality Studies; Program in African & African American Studies at the Center for Comparative Studies in Race & Ethnicity, Stanford University; and the FMS Summer Institute (through a grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation).



FMS

The image features a stylized logo for 'FMS' centered on a gold background. The letters are dark blue with a white outline. The 'F' is a tall, thin serif. The 'M' is a bold, cursive-style letter. The 'S' is a tall, thin, cursive-style letter. The logo is framed by a gold square with a red horizontal bar at the top and bottom, and a gold square on the left and right sides.

## FMS National Coordinating Team

**Linda Martín Alcoff**, Professor of Philosophy and Women's Studies, Syracuse University

**Johnnella Butler**, Provost, Spelman College

**Beverly Guy-Sheftall**, Anna Julia Cooper Professor of Women's Studies and English and  
Director of Women's Research and Resource Center, Spelman College

**Michael Hames-García**, Barbara and Carlisle Moore Distinguished Visiting Professor of English, University of Oregon

**Joseph F. Jordan**, Director of the Sonja Haynes Stone Center for Black Culture and History at the University of  
North Carolina at Chapel Hill and Associate Professor in the Department of African/Afro-American Studies

**Amie Macdonald**, Associate Professor of Philosophy, John Jay College/City University of New York

**Ernesto J. Martinez**, Assistant Professor of Women's and Gender Studies, Ethnic Studies and English, University of Oregon

**Chandra Talpade Mohanty**, Professor of Women's Studies and Dean's Professor of the Humanities, Syracuse University

**Satya P. Mohanty**, Professor of English, Cornell University

**Paula M. L. Moya**, Associate Professor of English and faculty, Center for Comparative Studies in Race and  
Ethnicity (CCSRE), Stanford University

**Susan Sánchez-Casal**, Journal Editor, Madrid, Spain; former Associate Professor of Spanish and Women's Studies,  
Hamilton College

**Tobin Siebers**, V. L. Parrington Collegiate Professor of Literary and Cultural Criticism, Director of Comparative Literature,  
and Director of Global Ethnic Literature Seminar, University of Michigan-Ann Arbor

**Sean Teuton**, Associate Professor of English and American Indian Studies, University of Wisconsin-Madison

## FMS Summer Institute Director

**Satya P. Mohanty**, Professor of English, Cornell University

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**Claude Steele**, Lucy Stern Professor in Social Sciences and Director, Center for Advanced Study, Stanford University

**Helena María Viramontes**, Author; Associate Professor of English, Cornell University