

the 2007
Allison
Davis
Lecture



PATRICIA HILL COLLINS

“EMANCIPATORY KNOWLEDGE—AN OXYMORON? LESSONS FROM CONTEMPORARY U.S. BLACK STUDIES PROJECTS”

Contemporary U.S. Black Studies projects that emerged in the context of the civil rights and Black Power social movements of the 1950s and 1960s provide important clues concerning efforts to develop a form of emancipatory knowledge that could be placed in service to African American political projects. In her presentation, Collins will revisit the history of modern Black studies projects by outlining the relationship between three entities: (1) shifting racial formations in the United States that catalyzed a new colorblind racism (2) Black Studies' encounters with colorblind racism on the terrain of higher education; and (3) emergent knowledges and practices within Black Studies projects. Via this analysis, she will point out how the paths taken and/or abandoned by U.S. Black Studies projects shed light on broader questions concerning the actual and potential contributions of emancipatory knowledge to the empowerment of oppressed groups.

Patricia Hill Collins is the Distinguished University Professor of Sociology at the University of Maryland, College Park. Regarded as one of America's leading black feminists, she came to national attention for her book *Black Feminist Thought: Knowledge, Consciousness and the Politics of Empowerment* (1990). Using sources from fiction to music and oral history, the book demonstrated the interconnectivity of oppression across race, class, gender, and sexuality. She is the co-editor of *Race, Class and Gender*, a book assigned by over 200 colleges and universities assign to their students. A prolific author, she most recently published *From Black Power to Hip Hop : Racism, Nationalism, and Feminism* (2006), which examines the relationship between black nationalism, feminism and women in the hip-hop generation.

4:30 pm
Thursday, November 8, 2007
Harris Hall 107
1881 Sheridan Road
Evanston Campus

reception to follow
Hagstrum Room, University Hall 201

FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Judd A. and Marjorie Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences
Department of African American Studies