



The Benjamin L. Hooks Institute for Social Change  
at The University of Memphis

presents

# THE OBAMA PHENOMENON

Race & Political Discourse in the United States Today

Friday & Saturday, April 3-4, 2009  
Michael D. Rose Theatre Lecture Hall  
The University of Memphis  
Free and Open to the Public

Event Co-Sponsors:

SCHOLARS IN CRITICAL RACE STUDIES GROUP  
THE MARCUS W. ORR CENTER FOR THE HUMANITIES  
THE UNIVERSITY OF MEMPHIS PUBLIC SERVICE FUNDS  
AFRICAN AND AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATION

## Friday, April 3, 2009

- 9:30** Opening remarks by Daphene R. McFerren, Director  
Benjamin L. Hooks Institute for Social Change, University of Memphis
- 9:30** **OBAMA AND THE MEDIA: CARICATURES,  
REPRESENTATIONS AND HIP HOP**  
Chair: Reece L. Auguste, University of Memphis
- Change Gonna Come: Obama's Rhetorical Genius  
and its Impact on Hip Hop  
Wilfredo Gomez, Bucknell University
- Killing Two Birds with One Stone: a Muslim Obama  
Usame Tunagur, Ohio University
- 10:45** Rac[e]jing Obama; Rac[e]jing McCain  
Leonard Baynes, St. Johns Law School, New York
- 12:00** LUNCH
- 2:00** **DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING AWARD CEREMONY AND RECEPTION**  
*Sponsored by African and African American Studies and the University of  
Memphis (Panhellenic Building)*
- 3:30** **GENDER IDENTITY AND RACIAL IDENTITY:  
BARACK AND MICHELLE OBAMA**  
Chair: Shelby Crosby, University of Memphis
- Barack Obama: In Search of his Father, in Search of Himself  
Stephanie Li, University of Rochester
- Obama's Baby Mama: How Michelle Obama's  
Self-Narratives in the Media Negotiate Racism  
Eluned Jones, University of King's College, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada
- 6:00** **KEYNOTE ADDRESS**  
**Some Through the Fire! Some Through the Flood!**  
REVEREND DR. JEREMIAH A. WRIGHT, JR.

All Conference proceedings (with one exception noted on the program) will take place on the University of Memphis campus at the Michael D. Rose Theatre Lecture Hall. All events are free and open to the public, on a first-come, first-serve basis. A capacity crowd is expected for Reverend Dr. Jeremiah A. Wright, Jr.'s keynote address, and, when that occurs, no more people will be admitted to the Rose Theatre.

## Saturday, April 4, 2009

- 9:30** **OBAMA, RACE AND PUBLIC POLICY**  
Chair: Janann Sherman, University of Memphis
- Racism, Stress and Health: Why Obama's Class Based  
Approach Won't Eliminate Racial and Health Gaps  
Vernellia R. Randall, University of Dayton School of Law
- Anti-Zionist by Association: Conservative American-Jewish  
Perceptions of Candidate Obama  
Jonathan Sciarcon, University of California at Santa Barbara
- 10:30** Towards a More Perfect Union: Obama and Colorblind Public Policy  
Bill E. Lawson, University of Memphis
- 11:30** LUNCH
- 12:30** **CRITICAL RACE THEORY MEETS A POST-ETHNIC AMERICA?**  
Chair, Beverly E. Cross, University of Memphis
- What are you? A Post-Race Obama America Meets Critical Race Theory  
Celia Anderson, University of Memphis  
Adrienne Dixon, Ohio State University
- A Post-Election Obama Meets Critical Race Theory  
Thandeka Chapman, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
- 2:15** **OLD SCHOOL POLITICS? THE CONTINUING RELEVANCE OF  
RACE AND ETHNICITY IN MEMPHIS**  
Panel Discussion
- 4:00** **PLENARY ADDRESS**  
**Soul Brother No.1: Is Obama Black Enough?**  
RONALD S. SULLIVAN  
*Harvard Law School. Chair of Candidate Obama's Criminal Justice Policy Group,  
Member of National Legal Advisory Group and Advisor to the United States Depart-  
ment of Justice Transition Team*
- 5:00** Closing Remarks by Jonathan Judaken, Director  
Marcus W. Orr Center for the Humanities, University of Memphis
- 5:15** RECEPTION  
*Sponsored by The Benjamin L. Hooks Institute for Social Change Local Advisory Board*