

Ruha Benjamin, Ph.D.

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Department of Sociology and
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POSITIONS

Boston University, Boston, MA.
Department of Sociology and African American Studies Program, Assistant Professor. July 2010-present.

University of California, Los Angeles, CA.
Center for Society and Genetics, Postdoctoral Fellow. Sept 2008- Sept 2010.

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.

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

PUBLICATIONS

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

Benjamin, R. Uncertain Symptoms, Uncertain Science: When Sickle Cell Disease and Stem Cell Research Converge. Under Review.

Benjamin, R. Sovereignty and Security: the Janus-face of geneticized national identities. In *Genomics and Identity Politics*, edited by Hauskeller, Haddow, Tutton, and Sturdy. Invited book chapter. In-preparation.

Benjamin, R. *Insurgent Ambivalence: Science, Democracy, and the Production of Uncertainty at Medicine's Frontier*. Book manuscript in-preparation.

FELLOWSHIPS & GRANTS

National Science Foundation Graduate Fellowship , 2004-07.
California Institute for Regenerative Medicine Dissertation Research Fellowship, 2006-07.
UC Berkeley Center for Race and Gender Dissertation Research Grant, 2007.
Townsend Center Stem Cells and the Humanities Dissertation Research Grant, 2005.
Ford Foundation Predoctoral Diversity Graduate Fellowship, 2002-05.
UC Berkeley Graduate Opportunity Fellowship, *declined*, 2002.
Presidential Scholarship, Spelman College, 1997-2001.

AWARDS & HONORS

Summa cum laude Spelman College, 2001.
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.

TEACHING & MENTORING EXPERIENCE

Boston University, Boston, MA.

Race & Ethnic Relations. Sociology and African American Studies | Fall '10. Instructor.
Science, Race, and Society. Sociology and African American Studies | Fall '10. Instructor.
Biopolitics of Race. Sociology and African American Studies | Spring '11. 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 Opp. | 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.

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

- “Ambivalence-in-Action: Racial & Gendered Genealogies of Stem Cell Recruitment & Resistance”. Science, Knowledge, and Technology Session. *American Sociological Association* | Atlanta, GA. Aug 2010.
- “Reporting Genetics and Aboriginal Health”. Invited Panelist. *University of British Columbia School of Journalism and Genome British Columbia* | Vancouver, Canada. March 2010.
- “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 2010.
- “The Privatization of Science: Commercialized Knowing and its Discontents” Invited Panelist. *Society for Social Studies of Science Annual Meeting* | Washington D.C. Oct 2009.
- “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* | San Francisco, CA. Aug 2009.
- “Scientific Pioneering and Insurgent Political Frames”. *UC Berkeley Center for Race and Gender Colloquium Series* | Berkeley, CA. Sept 2007.
- “Frontier Notes: Settler and Native Accounts of Stem Cell Science”. *UC Berkeley Stem Cell Center Asilomar Retreat* | Monterey, CA. May 2007.
- “Fixing Race: Minority Health Advocacy and the Politics of Therapy”. *Science, Technology, Ethics, and Law Association Colloquium* | Berkeley, CA. April 2007.
- “Why Aren’t More Cord Blood Transplants Performed For Children with Sickle Cell Anemia?” *National Sickle Cell Disease Program Annual Meeting* | Memphis, TN. April 2006
- “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 2006.
- “Bush Science v/s Pure Science: Nature, Nation, and the Supernatural Converge”. *Crossing Borders Ethnic Studies Conference* | Los Angeles, CA. March 2006.
- “Racing Categories, Categorizing Race”. *Columbia University Conf. on Categories* | New York, NY. Oct 2004.
- “Anything But Free: Politics of containment, public health care, and premature death” with Osagie K. Obasogie. *American Sociological Association* | San Francisco, CA. Aug 2004.

Discussant, Panel Moderator, and Guest Lecturer

- “Race, Genetics, and the Genome Project”. Discussant. *American Sociological Association Section on Racial & Ethnic Minorities*. Atlanta, GA. Aug 2010.
- “Global comparisons of public health genomics—new articulations of populations and citizenship”. Chair and Discussant. *Vital Politics III: The Politics of the Life Sciences in an ‘Age of Biological Control’*. London School of Economics. Sept 2009.
- “Towards a Reconceptualization of Borders”. Chair and Discussant. *National Association for Ethnic Studies Annual Meeting* | San Diego, CA. April 2009.

CONT.

- “The Political as Personal: Lay Expertise in Science Policy Advocacy”. Guest Lecture. UCLA, Science Policy & Expertise course | Fall 2008.
- “Then and Now: The Changing Conditions of Scientific Knowledge Production”. Guest Lecture. UC Berkeley, Bioengineering course | April 2007.
- “The Social and Political Implications of Stem Cell Research and Therapies”. Guest Lecture. UC Berkeley, Biology course | Feb 2006 and Sept 2007.
- Panel on “Beyond Affirmative Action”. Discussant. *Changing the Culture of the Academy* Graduate Division Conference | Berkeley, CA. March 2007.
- Panel on “Publics, Advocacy, and Practices of Science”. Chair. *Ethical Worlds of Stem Cell Medicine*, UC Berkeley/ UC San Francisco | Sept 2006.
- Panel on “Power”. Chair and Discussant. *Berkeley Journal of Sociology* 50th Annual Conference | Berkeley, CA. March 2006.
- “How Cancer Crossed the Colorline”. Discussant. Talk by Dr. Keith Wailoo, UC Berkeley Anthropology Department colloquium | Berkeley, CA. Feb 2006.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

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| 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 Preparing Future Faculty** Summer Institute. Graduate Division. 2008.
- 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.

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES & AFFILIATIONS

Member

American Sociological Association
Society for Social Studies of Science
National Association for Ethnic Studies
Association of Black Women in Higher Education

Reviewer

Biosocieties
Berkeley Journal of Sociology
Social Science and Medicine

COMMUNITY & EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH

UC Berkeley Sociology Diversity Working Group, co-organized series of departmental, campus, and the UC system wide initiatives- Changing the Culture of the Academy conference | Fall 2007.

Center for Genetics and Society, co-organized series of public talks on inequality and the new reproductive and genetic technologies with Oakland-based public policy think tank (CGS) | Sept 2005-May 2006.

UC Berkeley Affirmative Action Initiative, worked with academic departments to investigate admissions criteria that filter out minority students and address cultural climate of academia that adversely impacts minority retention | Sept 2002-Jan 2008.

UC Berkeley African Diaspora Pedagogy Institute, co-organized summer workshop for K-12 and community college educators on incorporating African American and Diaspora studies in California core curriculum | Aug. 2002- June 2003.

Project South, organized student involvement in Poor People's Day- lobbying legislatures and participating in educational workshops around socio-economic and racial inequities | Sept 1999-May '00.

Atlanta Urban Housing Initiative, organized town hall meeting of Atlanta Housing Authority representatives, local residents of target neighborhoods, and academic experts on gentrification and residential patterns in Atlanta, GA | Sept 1999-May 2000.

REFERENCES

Troy Duster, Ph.D.
Professor
UC Berkeley Sociology Dept
510.642.0813
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Charis Thompson, Ph.D.
Professor
UC Berkeley, Gender Studies
510.642.8528
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Stefan Timmermans, Ph.D.
Professor
UCLA Sociology Dept
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Loïc Wacquant, Ph.D.
Professor
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