

[Dr. Neferti Tadiar](#)

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Registration Link (Zoom): <http://go.sjsu.edu/HRI2>

2021 KEYNOTE HUMAN RIGHTS LECTURE: Dr. Angela Davis

Date: Thursday, February 11, 2021, 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. PST

Keynote Speaker [Dr. Angela Davis](#)
*Distinguished Professor Emerita
UC Santa Cruz, History of Consciousness and Feminist
Studies Departments*

Guest Panelists Representatives, [Silicon Valley DeBug](#) and others from the SCC "Care First, Jail Last" Coalition

Registration Link (Zoom): <http://go.sjsu.edu/HRI3>

SELECTED RESOURCES

SCHOLARLY ARTICLES

Aptheker, Bettina. 1982. "Race and Class: Patriarchal Politics and Women's Experience." *Women's Studies Quarterly*, 10(4): 10-15.

https://www.jstor.org/stable/40004177?casa_token=B8_XpgAoA8kAAAAA%3AqKEiHrJoupUpHyfxFqjwTTX4SMOAFteT9dhlGzdWW-ep3LwDjnzev036HCCEdB5mUMpF5-IHPzUt2PvNg8HG6zcDR4f5ggR-EXhG3HghKLrnt2rNYmPw&seq=1#metadata_info_tab_contents.

Tadiar, Neferti X. M. 2020. "Decolonization, 'Race,' and Remaindered Life under Empire." *Qui Parle*, 23(2): 135–160. www.jstor.org/stable/10.5250/quiparle.23.2.0135.

Tadiar, Neferti X.M. 2012. "Life-Times in Fate Playing." *South Atlantic Quarterly*, 23(2): 783-802. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1215/00382876-1724183>.

MAINSTREAM ARTICLES

Ransby, Barbara. 07/02/2020. "The White Left Needs to Embrace Black Leadership." *The Nation*. <https://www.thenation.com/article/activism/black-lives-white-left/>.

Ransby, Barbara. 04/01/2019. "The Rising Black Left Movement Behind Chicago's Historic Elections." *The Nation*. <https://www.thenation.com/article/archive/chicago-election-mayor-black-lives-matter/>.

Ransby, Barbara. "The Class Politics of Black Lives Matter." *Dissent Magazine*. <https://www.dissentmagazine.org/article/class-politics-black-lives-matter>.

VIDEOS

Angela Davis on Running from the FBI, Lessons from Prison, and How Aretha Franklin Got Her Free. *Democracy Now!* [23 mins.]

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xnNqx0zoaUw>

Teaching as a Tool for Change: Angela Davis and Ericka Huggins in conversation

<https://vimeo.com/457920757>

(This event took place on: Wednesday, September 9, 2020)

Artspace hosted a conversation between Angela Davis and Ericka Huggins. Davis and Huggins discussed the Oakland Community School and other ground-breaking educational work Huggins has been a part of since her early days as a member of the Black Panther Party's New Haven Chapter.

Artspace is a visionary and dynamic non-profit organization championing emerging artists and building new audiences for contemporary art. Our exhibition and commissioning programs (in the gallery, out of doors, and city-wide) encourage experimentation, discovery, and lively civic discourse, while fostering appreciation for the vital role that artists play in improving our community.

Harvard University - Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study
Radical Commitments: The Life and Legacy of Angela Davis
OCTOBER 28 - 29, 2019

A cross-generational group of leading scholars, activists, musicians, and incarcerated women lead discussions on the rich tradition of activism and social theory in the late 20th century using the life and work of the political activist and pioneering philosopher Angela Davis.

KEYNOTE CONVERSATION ([28:31](#))

Angela Davis, distinguished professor emerita, UC Santa Cruz Neferti X. M. Tadiar, professor and chair of women's, gender & sexuality studies, Barnard College Introduction by Kaia Stern,

Elsa Hardy, and Abbie Cohen, reading from the work of The Pathways Collective, a group of incarcerated women studying Angela Davis's life and writings

<https://www.radcliffe.harvard.edu/video/radical-commitments-keynote-angela-davis>

SESSION 2: "FEMINISMS"

<https://www.radcliffe.harvard.edu/video/radical-commitments-feminisms>

Radical Commitments | Childhood, Case, and Social Contributions

<https://www.radcliffe.harvard.edu/video/radical-commitments-childhood-case-and-social-contributions>

Neferti X.M. Tadiar Keynote Address, Duke University Women's Studies Feminist Theory Workshop (2009). [55 mins.]

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-WcJLoEXs>

Barbara Ransby on the Biden Problem: Social Movements Must Defeat Trump and Also Hold Dems Accountable (2020). *Democracy Now!* [14 mins.]

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1RHoQZ-5ZDE>

Barbara Ransby on Racial Capitalism, Power, and Resistance (2019) for Neighborhood Funders Group (Chicago, IL). [42 mins.]

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IGOzzqakPJO>

Bettina Aptheker's Definition of Feminism (2020), for UCSC Online Education (MOOC Feminism and Social Justice). [10 mins.]

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=88npsc0Qb64>

BOOKS

Aptheker, Bettina. 1997. *The Morning Breaks: The Trial of Angela Davis*. 2nd ed. Cornell University Press.

<https://www.jstor.org/stable/10.7591/j.ctt5hh0g9>

<https://www.amazon.com/Morning-Breaks-Trial-Angela-Davis/dp/0801485975>

On August 7, 1970, a revolt by Black prisoners in a Marin County courthouse stunned the nation. In its aftermath, Angela Davis, an African American activist-scholar who had campaigned vigorously for prisoners' rights, was placed on the FBI's "ten most wanted list." Captured in New York City two months later, she was charged with murder,

kidnapping, and conspiracy. Her trial, chronicled in this "compelling tale" (*Publishers Weekly*), brought strong public indictment. *The Morning Breaks* is a riveting firsthand account of Davis's ordeal and her ultimate triumph, written by an activist in the student, civil rights, and antiwar movements who was intimately involved in the struggle for her release. First published in 1975, and praised by *The Nation* for its "graphic narrative of [Davis's] legal and public fight," *The Morning Breaks* remains relevant today as the nation contends with the political fallout of the Sixties and the grim consequences of institutional racism. For this edition, Bettina Aptheker has provided an introduction that revisits crucial events of the late 1960s and early 1970s and puts Davis's case into the context of that time and our own—from the killings at Kent State and Jackson State to the politics of the prison system today. This book gives a first-hand account of the worldwide movement for Angela Davis's freedom and of her trial. It offers a unique historical perspective on the case and its continuing significance in the contemporary political landscape.

Davis, Angela Y. (Angela Yvonne), and Joy James. 1998. *The Angela Y. Davis Reader*. Malden, Mass: Blackwell.

<https://www.wiley.com/en-us/The+Angela+Y+Davis+Reader-p-9780631203612>

<https://www.amazon.com/Angela-Y-Davis-Reader/dp/0631203613>

For three decades, Angela Y. Davis has written on liberation theory and democratic praxis. Challenging the foundations of mainstream discourse, her analyses of culture, gender, capital, and race have profoundly influenced democratic theory, antiracist feminism, critical studies and political struggles.

Even for readers who primarily know her as a revolutionary of the late 1960s and early 1970s (or as a political icon for militant activism) she has greatly expanded the scope and range of social philosophy and political theory. Expanding critical theory, contemporary progressive theorists - engaged in justice struggles - will find their thought influenced by the liberation praxis of Angela Y. Davis.

The Angela Y. Davis Reader presents eighteen essays from her writings and interviews which have appeared in *If They Come in the Morning*, *Women, Race, and Class*, *Women, Culture, and Politics*, and *Black Women and the Blues* as well as articles published in women's, ethnic/black studies and communist journals, and cultural studies anthologies. In four parts - "Prisons, Repression, and Resistance", "Marxism, Anti-Racism, and Feminism", "Aesthetics and Culture", and recent interviews - Davis examines revolutionary politics and intellectualism. Davis's discourse chronicles progressive political movements and social philosophy. It is essential reading for anyone interested in contemporary political philosophy, critical race theory, social theory, ethnic studies, American studies, African American studies, cultural theory, feminist philosophy, gender studies.

Davis, Angela Y. (Angela Yvonne). 2003. *Are Prisons Obsolete?* New York, NY: Seven Stories Press.

https://www.feministes-radicales.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/11/Angela-Davis-Are_Prisons_Obsolete.pdf

<https://www.akpress.org/areprisonsobsolete.html>

With her characteristic brilliance, grace and radical audacity, Angela Y. Davis has put the case for the latest abolition movement in American life: the abolition of the prison. As she quite correctly notes, American life is replete with abolition movements, and when they were engaged in these struggles, their chances of success seemed almost unthinkable. For generations of Americans, the abolition of slavery was sheerest illusion. Similarly,

the entrenched system of racial segregation seemed to last forever, and generations lived in the midst of the practice, with few predicting its passage from custom. The brutal, exploitative (dare one say lucrative?) convict-lease system that succeeded formal slavery reaped millions to southern jurisdictions (and untold miseries for tens of thousands of men, and women). Few predicted its passing from the American penal landscape. Davis expertly argues how social movements transformed these social, political and cultural institutions, and made such practices untenable.

In *Are Prisons Obsolete?*, Professor Davis seeks to illustrate that the time for the prison is approaching an end. She argues forthrightly for "decarceration", and argues for the transformation of the society as a whole.

Douglass, Frederick, and Angela Y. Davis. 2010. *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave, Written by Himself: A New Critical Edition*. San Francisco: City Lights Books.

(Introduction and Lectures on Liberation, Pages 21-86)

<https://www.amazon.com/Narrative-Frederick-Douglass-American-Written/dp/0872865274>

A masterpiece of African American literature, Frederick Douglass's *Narrative* is the powerful story of an enslaved youth coming into social and moral consciousness by disobeying his white slave masters and secretly teaching himself to read. Achieving literacy emboldens Douglass to resist, escape and ultimately achieve his freedom. After escaping slavery, Douglass became a leader in the anti-slavery and women's rights movements, a bestselling author and U.S. diplomat.

In this new critical edition, legendary activist and feminist scholar Angela Davis sheds new light on the legacy of Frederick Douglass. In two philosophical lectures originally delivered at UCLA in autumn 1969, Davis focuses on Douglass's intellectual and spiritual awakening, and the importance of self-knowledge in achieving freedom from all forms of oppression. With detailed attention to Douglass's text, she interrogates the legacy of slavery and shares timeless lessons about oppression, resistance and freedom. And in an extended introductory essay written for this edition, Davis comments on previous editions of the *Narrative* and re-examines Douglass through a contemporary feminist perspective. An important new edition of an American classic.

Davis, Angela Y. (Angela Yvonne), and Frank Barat. 2016. *Freedom Is a Constant Struggle: Ferguson, Palestine, and the Foundations of a Movement*. Chicago, Illinois: Haymarket Books.

<https://www.haymarketbooks.org/books/780-freedom-is-a-constant-struggle>

<https://www.akpress.org/freedom-is-a-constant-struggle.html>

In these newly collected essays, interviews, and speeches, world-renowned activist and scholar Angela Y. Davis illuminates the connections between struggles against state violence and oppression throughout history and around the world. Reflecting on the importance of black feminism, intersectionality, and prison abolitionism for today's struggles, Davis discusses the legacies of previous liberation struggles, from the Black Freedom Movement to the South African anti-Apartheid movement. She highlights connections and analyzes today's struggles against state terror, from Ferguson to Palestine. Facing a world of outrageous injustice, Davis challenges us to imagine and build the movement for human liberation. And in doing so, she reminds us that "Freedom is a constant struggle."

Progressive struggles against insidious capitalist individualism -- Ferguson reminds us of the importance of a global context -- We have to talk about systematic change -- On Palestine, G4S, and the prison-industrial complex -- Closures and continuities -- From Michael Brown to Assata Shakur, the racist state of America persists -- The Truth

Telling Project: violence in America -- Feminism and abolition: theories and practices for the twenty-first century -- Political activism and protest from the 1960s to the age of Obama -- Transnational solidarities.

Ransby, Barbara. 2003. *Ella Baker and the Black Freedom Movement*. Chapel Hill, NC: UNC Press.

<https://uncpress.org/book/9780807856161/ella-baker-and-the-black-freedom-movement/>

<https://www.amazon.com/Ella-Baker-Black-Freedom-Movement/dp/0807856169>

One of the most important African American leaders of the twentieth century and perhaps the most influential woman in the civil rights movement, Ella Baker (1903-1986) was an activist whose remarkable career spanned fifty years and touched thousands of lives.

A gifted grassroots organizer, Baker shunned the spotlight in favor of vital behind-the-scenes work that helped power the black freedom struggle. She was a national officer and key figure in the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, one of the founders of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, and a prime mover in the creation of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee. Baker made a place for herself in predominantly male political circles that included W. E. B. Du Bois, Thurgood Marshall, and Martin Luther King Jr., all the while maintaining relationships with a vibrant group of women, students, and activists both black and white.

In this deeply researched biography, Barbara Ransby chronicles Baker's long and rich political career as an organizer, an intellectual, and a teacher, from her early experiences in depression-era Harlem to the civil rights movement of the 1950s and 1960s. Ransby shows Baker to be a complex figure whose radical, democratic worldview, commitment to empowering the black poor, and emphasis on group-centered, grassroots leadership set her apart from most of her political contemporaries. Beyond documenting an extraordinary life, the book paints a vivid picture of the African American fight for justice and its intersections with other progressive struggles worldwide across the twentieth century.

Ransby, Barbara. 2013. *Eslanda: The Large and Unconventional Life of Mrs. Paul Robeson*. New Haven, CT: Yale U. Press.

<https://yalebooks.yale.edu/book/9780300205855/eslanda>

<https://www.amazon.com/Eslanda-Large-Unconventional-Life-Robeson/dp/0300205856>

The first biography of the bold, principled, and fiercely independent woman who defied convention to make her own mark on the world.

Eslanda "Essie" Cardozo Goode Robeson lived a colorful and amazing life. Her career and commitments took her many places: colonial Africa in 1936, the front lines of the Spanish Civil War, the founding meeting of the United Nations, Nazi-occupied Berlin, Stalin's Russia, and China two months after Mao's revolution. She was a woman of unusual accomplishment—an anthropologist, a prolific journalist, a tireless advocate of women's rights, an outspoken anti-colonial and antiracist activist, and an internationally sought-after speaker. Yet historians for the most part have confined Essie to the role of Mrs. Paul Robeson, a wife hidden in the large shadow cast by her famous husband. In this masterful book, biographer Barbara Ransby refocuses attention on Essie, one of the most important and fascinating black women of the twentieth century.

Chronicling Essie's eventful life, the book explores her influence on her husband's early career and how she later achieved her own unique political voice. Essie's friendships with a host of literary icons and world leaders, her

renown as a fierce defender of justice, her defiant testimony before Senator Joseph McCarthy's infamous anti-communist committee, and her unconventional open marriage that endured for over 40 years—all are brought to light in the pages of this inspiring biography. Essie's indomitable personality shines through, as do her contributions to United States and twentieth-century world history.

Ransby, Barbara. 2018. *Making All Black Lives Matter: Reimagining Freedom in the Twenty-First Century*. Oakland, CA: UC Press.

<https://www.ucpress.edu/book/9780520292710/making-all-black-lives-matter>

<https://www.amazon.com/Making-All-Black-Lives-Matter/dp/0520292715>

The breadth and impact of Black Lives Matter in the United States has been extraordinary. Between 2012 and 2016, thousands of people marched, rallied, held vigils, and engaged in direct actions to protest and draw attention to state and vigilante violence against Black people. What began as outrage over the 2012 murder of Trayvon Martin and the exoneration of his killer, and accelerated during the Ferguson uprising of 2014, has evolved into a resurgent Black Freedom Movement, which includes a network of more than fifty organizations working together under the rubric of the Movement for Black Lives coalition. Employing a range of creative tactics and embracing group-centered leadership models, these visionary young organizers, many of them women, and many of them queer, are not only calling for an end to police violence, but demanding racial justice, gender justice, and systemic change.

In *Making All Black Lives Matter*, award-winning historian and longtime activist Barbara Ransby outlines the scope and genealogy of this movement, documenting its roots in Black feminist politics and situating it squarely in a Black radical tradition, one that is anticapitalist, internationalist, and focused on some of the most marginalized members of the Black community. From the perspective of a participant-observer, Ransby maps the movement, profiles many of its lesser-known leaders, measures its impact, outlines its challenges, and looks toward its future.

Tadiar, Neferti X. M, and Angela Y Davis. (2005). *Beyond the Frame: Women of Color and Visual Representation*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan.

[https://www.feministes-radicales.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/11/Angela-Davis-Neferti-Tadiar-Beyond the Frame Women of Color and Visual Representation.pdf](https://www.feministes-radicales.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/11/Angela-Davis-Neferti-Tadiar-Beyond-the-Frame-Women-of-Color-and-Visual-Representation.pdf)

<https://www.palgrave.com/gp/book/9781403965332>

<https://www.amazon.com/Beyond-Frame-Women-Visual-Representation/dp/1403965331>

Beyond the Frame explores the importance of visual images in the identities and material conditions of women of color as they relate to social power, oppression, and resistance. The goal of the collection is to rethink the category of visual theory through women of color. It also explores the political and social ramifications of visual imagery for women of color, and the political consciousness that can emerge alongside a critical understanding of the impact of visual imagery. The book begins with a general exploration of what it means to develop a women of color criticism (rather than an analysis of women of color), and goes on to look specifically at topics such as 90s fashion advertisements, the politics of cosmetic surgery, and female fans of East LA rock bands.

Tadiar, Neferti X.M. 2009. *Things Fall Away: Philippine Historical Experience and the Makings of Globalization*. Durham, NC: Duke U. Press.

<https://www.dukeupress.edu/things-fall-away>

https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B00EZBO671/ref=dbs_a_def_rwt_hsch_vapi_tkin_p1_i0

In *Things Fall Away*, Neferti X. M. Tadiar offers a new paradigm for understanding politics and globalization. Her analysis illuminates both the power of Filipino subaltern experience to shape social and economic realities and the critical role of the nation's writers and poets in that process. Through close readings of poems, short stories, and novels brought into conversation with scholarship in anthropology, sociology, politics, and economics, Tadiar demonstrates how the devalued experiences of the Philippines' vast subaltern populations—experiences that “fall away” from the attention of mainstream and progressive accounts of the global capitalist present—help to create the material conditions of social life that feminists, urban activists, and revolutionaries seek to transform. Reading these “fallout” experiences as vital yet overlooked forms of political agency, Tadiar offers a new and provocative analysis of the unrecognized productive forces at work in global trends such as the growth of migrant domestic labor, the emergence of postcolonial “civil society,” and the “democratization” of formerly authoritarian nations.

Tadiar treats the historical experiences articulated in feminist, urban protest, and revolutionary literatures of the 1960s–90s as “cultural software” for the transformation of dominant social relations. She considers feminist literature in relation to the feminization of labor in the 1970s, when between 300,000 and 500,000 prostitutes were working in the areas around U.S. military bases, and in the 1980s and 1990s, when more than five million Filipinas left the country to toil as maids, nannies, nurses, and sex workers. She reads urban protest literature in relation to authoritarian modernization and crony capitalism, and she reevaluates revolutionary literature's constructions of the heroic revolutionary subject and the messianic masses, probing these social movements' unexhausted cultural resources for radical change.

Lorde, Audre. 1985. *Sister Outsider: Essays and Speeches*. Trumansburg, NY: Crossing Press.

<https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/books/198292/sister-outsider-by-audre-lorde/>

<https://www.amazon.com/Sister-Outsider-Speeches-Crossing-Feminist/dp/1580911862>

In this charged collection of fifteen essays and speeches, Lorde takes on sexism, racism, ageism, homophobia, and class, and propounds social difference as a vehicle for action and change. Her prose is incisive, unflinching, and lyrical, reflecting struggle but ultimately offering messages of hope. This commemorative edition includes a new foreword by Lorde-scholar and poet Cheryl Clarke, who celebrates the ways in which Lorde's philosophies resonate more than twenty years after they were first published.

Taylor, Keeanga Yahmatta. 2017. *How we Get Free: Black Feminism and the Combahee River Collective*. Chicago, IL: Haymarket Books.

<https://bookshop.org/books/how-we-get-free-black-feminism-and-the-combahee-river-collective/9781608468553>

<https://www.akpress.org/how-we-get-free.html>

https://www.amazon.com/How-We-Get-Free-Collective/dp/1608468550/ref=sr_1_3?dchild=1&keywords=keeanga+yamahtta+taylor&qid=1609020155&s=books&sr=1-3

The Combahee River Collective, a path-breaking group of radical black feminists, was one of the most important organizations to develop out of the antiracist and women's liberation movements of the 1960s and 70s. In this collection of essays and interviews edited by activist-scholar Keeanga-Yamahtta Taylor, founding members of the organization and contemporary activists reflect on the legacy of its contributions to Black feminism and its impact on today's struggles.

Keeanga-Yamahtta Taylor writes on Black politics, social movements, and racial inequality in the United States. Her book *From #BlackLivesMatter to Black Liberation* won the 2016 Lannan Cultural Freedom Award for an Especially Notable Book. Taylor is Assistant Professor in the Department of African American Studies at Princeton University.