

PATRICIA J. WILLIAMS

University Distinguished Professor of Law and Humanities and Director of Law, Technology and Ethics Initiatives
Northeastern University
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Boston, MA 02115

Courses Taught

Aesthetics and Justice
Anatomy of Autonomy
Contagion: Law, Affect and Bioinsecurity
Contracts
Contract Theory: Advanced Problems
Critical Race Theory
Feminist Legal Theory
Human Identity, DNA and the Scientific Revolution
Jurisprudence
Jurisprudence of Food
Law and Algorithms
Law, Culture and Notions of Justice
Law in a Market Economy
Law, Media and Public Policy
Perspectives in The Law
Race, Class, Trauma and Law
Racial Formations and Justice Today
Seeing and Surveillance
Technology and Identity
Uniform Commercial Code
Women and Notions of Property

Education

Wellesley College, BA
Harvard Law School, JD

Honorary Degrees

Northeastern University School of Law
Vermont Law School
College of Wooster
Old Dominion University
Smith College
John Jay College

Recent Fellowships and Faculty Affiliations

Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Studies, Harvard University
Berkman Klein Center for Internet and Society, Harvard University
MacArthur Fellow, MacArthur Foundation

Recent Public Appearances

-Panelist, "Civil Liberties, Privacy and Public Health: Emerging Tensions and Technologies During Covid-19," PEN America Webinar, April 30, 2020
<https://pen.org/event/webinar-civil-liberties-privacy-public-health-emerging-tensions-andtechnologies-during-covid-19/>
-Panelist, "Unequal Protection: The Disparate Impact of Covid-19 on

Communities of Color” The American Constitution Society, May 4, 2020
<https://www.acslaw.org/podcast/unequal-protection-the-disparate-impact-of-covid-19-oncommunities-of-color/>

-Guest, Late Night Live with Phillip Adams, Australian Public Broadcasting, June 3, 2020
<https://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/latenightlive/protests-and-presidents/12322268>

-Guest, The Sunday Edition with Michael Enright, Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, June 7, 2020
<https://www.cbc.ca/radio/thesundayedition/the-sunday-edition-for-june-7-2020-1.5594627/thefire-this-time-two-black-female-leaders-on-protests-inequality-and-rage-1.5597174>

-Webcast, “Data Magic and Democracy: Data Privacy, Politics and Transmedia Storytelling– a conversation with Caroline Jones, Daniel Weitzner, Patricia Williams, and Ethan Zuckerman,” at the Transmedia Storytelling Initiative, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, School of Architecture and Planning, October 19, 2020
<http://web.mit.edu/webcast/architecture/f20/data-magic/>

-Conversation with Serena Parekh, “No Refuge,” Brookline Booksellers, December, 2020,
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T00QpCm6uJY&feature=emb_logo

-Conversation with Orlando Patterson, “The Confounding Island: Jamaica and the Post-Colonial Predicament,” in the series Black Memoirs In the Global Age of the Boston University Center of the Humanities, January, 2021
<https://www.bu.edu/humanities/community/podcasts>

Selected Publications

Books

The Alchemy of Race and Rights: Diary of a Law Professor, Harvard University Press, 1992
 The Rooster’s Egg: On the Persistence of Prejudice, Harvard University Press, 1994
 Seeing a Color-Blind Future, Farrar, Strauss and Giroux, 1997
 Open House: On Family, Friends, Food, Piano Lessons, and the Search for a Room of My Own, Farrar Strauss and Giroux, 2005
 Giving a Damn: Race, Romance and Gone With the Wind, Harper Collins Publishing (forthcoming, March, 2021)

Chapters

“Contracted Women,” Feminist Legal Theory: Readings in Law and Gender, eds., Katherine Bartlett and Rosanne Kennedy, Westview Press, 1991
 “Finding Ways,” Malcolm X: In Our Own Image, ed., Joe Wood, St. Martin’s Press, 1992
 “A Rare Case Study of Muleheadedness and Men,” Race-ing Justice, Engendering Power: Essays on Anita Hill, Clarence Thomas and the Construction of Social Reality, ed., Toni Morrison, Pantheon Press, 1992
 “American Kabuki,” Birth of a Nation ‘Hood: Gaze, Script and Spectacle in the OJ Simpson Trial, ed., Toni Morrison, Vintage Press, 1997
 “Race and Gender,” Theorizing Feminism: Parallel Trends in the Humanities and Social Sciences, eds., Anne Herrmann and Abigail Stewart, Perseus Press, 2000
 “The Death of the Profane,” A Civil Rights Reader: American Literature from Jim Crow Reconciliation, eds., Amy Schmidt and Julie Armstrong, University of Georgia Press, 2009
 “The Elusive Variability of Race,” Race and the Genetic Revolution: Science, Myth and Culture, eds., Sheldon Krimsky and Kathleen Sloan, Columbia University Press, 2011
 “Foreword,” Blind Goddess: A Reader on Race and Justice, ed., Alexander Papachristou, The New Press, 2011
 “The Raw and The Half-Cooked,” in The Humanities and Public Life, ed., Peter Brooks, Fordham University Press, 2014
 “Foreword,” American Cocktail: A “Colored Girl” in the World, by Anita Reynolds, Harvard University Press, 2014
 “Afterword,” in Beyond Bioethics: Toward a New Biopolitics, eds., Osagie Obasogie and Marci Darnovsky, University of California Press, 2018
 “The Endless Looping of Public Health and Scientific Racism,” in [Assessing Legal Responses to COVID-19](#). Boston: Public Health Law Watch (2020). Northeastern University School of Law Research

Research Articles and Law Reviews

- Article, "Privacy In the Age of Genomics," Genewatch Magazine, vol. 27, no.1, Spring, 2014
- Article, (co-authored with Robert Pollack) "Chasing Identity," Genewatch Magazine, vol. 27, no. 2, Summer, 2014
- Essay, "Returning to the Puritans," Common-place: Journal of the American Antiquarian Society, vol. 14, No. 4, Summer, 2014
- Essay, "Babies, Bodies, Buyers," 33 Columbia Journal of Gender and Law, vol. 1, 2016
- Essay, "Gathering the Ghosts," The A-Line: A Journal of Progressive Thought, August 30, 2018, <https://alinejournal.com/vol-1-no-3-4/gathering-the-ghosts/>
- Review Essay, "History of eugenics: 'Intimacy and The Traumatic History of 'In-law' and 'Outlaw' Family," differences: A Journal of Feminist Cultural Studies, Spring, 2018
- Article, "Skittles and Matterphor: On Trayvon Martin's Echo," in "Matterphorical," a special issue of Theory and Event: Journal of Political Theory, Johns Hopkins Press (forthcoming, January, 2021)

Book Reviews and Monographs

- Book Review, "Putting Down The Gun," New York Times Book Review, October 3, 2014
- Book Review, "White Rabbit: DNA, Nicholas Wade's 'A Troublesome Inheritance,' and the New Waltz With Old Eugenics," The Nation Magazine, June 23, 2014
- "The Originals: A Tribute to Troy Duster," Bancroft Library Oral History Project, University of California at Berkeley, 2014
- Cover Story, "Intimate Justice," The Times Literary Supplement, January 2, 2018, <https://www.the-tls.co.uk/articles/public/intimate-injustice-black-girls-williams/>
- Review Essay, "Bad Blood: The History of Eugenics In The Progressive Era," The Times Literary Supplement, July 17, 2018
- "Les poupees a deux corps—un sens dessus dessous racial," in Black Dolls, La Collection Deborah Neff, La Maison Rouge-Fage, 2018
- Book Review, "Trembling With Thought: Immersed in the World of the Former First Lady," The Times Literary Supplement, February 8, 2019
- "Twenty-Two Hours: A Review of the Work of Filmmaker Bouchra Khalili," Exhibit Monograph, Museum of Fine Arts, March, 2019

Columns and Op-Eds

- Column, "It's Time to End 'Broken Windows' Policing," The Nation Magazine, January 8, 2014
- Column, "Womb Wars: Criminalizing Surrogate Pregnancy Contracts," The Nation Magazine, February 5, 2014
- Commentary, "'I, Too, Am Harvard' Rocks the Ivory Tower," The Nation Magazine, March 12, 2014
- Column, "Maybe-Us Corpus: How Biases Trump Evidence and Land People in Jail," The Nation Magazine, April 28, 2015
- Column, "The Latest Affirmative Action Decision Isn't Just About Race," The Nation Magazine, April 30, 2014
- Column, "Summer of Hardships," The Nation Magazine, August 13, 2014
- Interview, "What Michael Brown's Death Says About America," Newsweek Magazine, August 15, 2014
- Op-ed, "Obama's message of hope and change is all but lost amid the chaos of Ferguson," The Guardian, August 22, 2014
- Column, "The Right to Be Forgotten," The Nation Magazine, September 17, 2014
- Media Review, "The Most Integrated and Interesting Geography in America," The Guardian, September 26, 2014
- Lead Article, "Ferguson from France," The Washington Spectator, November 1, 2014
- Column, "Dangerous Children," The Nation Magazine, November 3, 2014
- Column, "The Value of Whiteness," The Nation Magazine, December 1-8, 2014
- Column, "Fighting Words," The Nation Magazine, December 23, 2014

Column, "The Holman Rule Once Allowed Congress to Purge Leftists From Government Agencies—Now It's Back," The Nation Magazine, January 19, 2017

Column, "Unbecoming Gentlemen: Honor, Repression, Double Standards," The Nation Magazine, February 16, 2017

Column, "Can Words Be Violent?" The Nation Magazine, March 16, 2017

Column, "How Donald Trump's Words Create Emergencies," The Nation Magazine, May 18, 2017

Column, "Burning Down The House," The Nation Magazine, June 15, 2017

Column, "How Much is Your Health Worth to You?" The Nation Magazine, September 21, 2017

Column, "Protest, Prayer, Treason," The Nation Magazine, October 6, 2017

Column, "Memory, Mask, Illusion" The Nation Magazine, October 26, 2017

Column, "Roy Moore Isn't the Only One Who Thinks Dating Kids is Fine," The Nation Magazine, December 15, 2017

Column, "Sitting Ducks," The Nation Magazine, January 22, 2018

Column, "Teachers Are Being Trained to Shoot Their Students," The Nation Magazine, February 1, 2018

Column, "The Pluperfected Future," The Nation Magazine, March 9, 2018

Column, "Leading and Bleeding: Why Mockery of the Parkland Survivors," The Nation Magazine, April 5, 2018

Column, "Ida B. Wells-Barnett Deserves a Bigger Statue," The Nation Magazine, May 2, 2018

Column, "The Generational Trauma of Separating Families," The Nation Magazine, June 20, 2018

Column, "Judge Kavanaugh: An Originalist With a New—and Terrifying—Interpretation of Executive Power," The Nation Magazine, July 13, 2018

Column, "'White Voice,' Blackface, and the Ethics of Representation," The Nation Magazine, August 17, 2018

Column, "Reasons to Believe," The Nation Magazine, September 26, 2018

Column, "Kavanaugh and Process," The Nation Magazine, October 4, 2018

Column, "A Dangerous Moral Universe," The Nation Magazine, December 19, 2018

Column, "Revisiting the Racial Imaginary (Again)," The Nation Magazine, February 21, 2019

Column, "Our Toxic-Speech Epidemic," The Nation Magazine, April 1, 2019

Column, "Why Everyone Should Care About Mass E-carceration," The Nation Magazine, April 29, 2019

Column, "Eurovision's Muddled DNA: Pop Genetics Don't Belong in a Musical Event—Or Its Marketing," The Nation Magazine, May 16, 2019

Column, "Artificial Intelligence Is Failing Humans," The Nation Magazine, July 16, 2019

Column, "Boris Johnson Interviewed Me for His Column. Here's What Didn't Make It Into Print," The Nation Magazine, August 26-September 2, 2019

Column, "Stop Getting Married on Plantations," The Nation Magazine, October 1, 2019

Op-Ed, "Language is part of the machinery of oppression," The Guardian, June 10, 2020

Column, "Donald Trump Is the 'Undertaker' of American Politics," The Nation Magazine, June 30, 2020

Column, "The Color of Contagion," The Nation Magazine, August 25, 2020

Op-Ed, (co-authored with John Loike, Matthew Cobb, and Robert Pollack) "Out of Many, One: Collaborating is the Way to Accelerate COVID 19 Vaccine Development," Healthcare Business Today, October 20, 2020