



Democratic Faith Project Working Group

Hosted by Melvin Rogers, PhD and Ryan Preson-Reodder, PhD

**December 8-11, 2022
Brown University**

Thursday, December 8th:

Afternoon: Attendees Arrive + Check-in to hotel (Homewood Suites at Hilton)

6:30pm: Dinner at Avenue N (959 Hope St.)

Friday, December 9th:

8:45am: Shuttle Departure from Hotel (Meet downstairs at the entrance door)

9am: Light Breakfast + Brief Introduction (Leung Conference Room, 280 Brook Street)

9:15am-12pm: Morning Session (Leung Conference Room, 280 Brook Street)

- 9:15-10:15a: Katie Stockdale, "Hope, Faith, and Solidarity"
- BREAK - 15 minutes
- 10:30a-11:30a: Vincent Lloyd, "Slavery and Autonomy: On Harriet Jacobs"
- 11:30a-12:30p: Andrew Chignell, "The Focus Theory of Hope" (pay close attention) and "Hopeful Pessimism"

12:30-1:30pm: Lunch at Faculty Club (1 Bannister Street)

1:45-3pm: Afternoon Session

- 1:45-2:45p: Ryan Preston-Roedder, "Three Varieties of Faith" (Sections 1 & 2) and "Love and Social Justice"

5:30pm: Dinner at Hemenway's (121 S. Main St.)

Saturday, December 10th:

8:30am: Shuttle Departure from Hotel (Meet downstairs at the entrance door)

8:45am: Light Breakfast (Leung Conference Room, 280 Brook Street)

9am-12:30pm: Morning Session (Leung Conference Room, 280 Brook Street)

- 9a-10: Ainsley LeSure, "Equality as a Practice of Checking Power (of Opinion)"
- BREAK - 15 minutes
- 10:15a-11:15a: Mark Lance, "From White Supremacy to Beloved Community" (pay close attention) and "Some Pragmatic Functions of Constructive Faith"
- BREAK - 15 minutes
- 11:30a-12:30p: John Lysaker, "Hope, Trust, and Forgiveness (Excerpt)"

12:30-1:30pm: Lunch (Whole Foods)

1:30-3pm: Afternoon Session

- 1:30-2:30p: Melvin Rogers, "Introduction" to *The Darkened Light of Faith*

6pm: Dinner at New Rivers (7 Steeple Street)

Sunday, December 11th:

Morning: Breakfast on your own + Attendees Depart

Nearby Restaurant Locations for Lunch/Dinner

Hemenway's

121 S Main St.

Providence, RI 02903

Capital Grille

10 Memorial Blvd.

Providence, RI 02903

Capriccio

2 Pine St.

Providence, RI 02903

Layali Providence

1 Custom House St.

Providence, RI 02903

New Rivers

7 Steeple St.

Providence, RI 02903

Nicobella's

10 Dorrance St.

Providence, RI 02903

Bellini

50 Westminster St.

Providence, RI 02903

DFP Participants' Biographies

Andrew Chignell is Laurance S. Rockefeller Professor in the University Center for Human Values at Princeton University, with additional appointments in the departments of Religion and Philosophy. Chignell spent 2018 on a Humboldt Fellowship for Experienced Researchers in Frankfurt and Berlin, and began teaching at Princeton in February 2019. Prior to that he was a Professor of Philosophy at University of Pennsylvania and at Cornell University. His work to date focuses on Immanuel Kant and other modern European philosophers, philosophy of religion, the moral psychology of hope and despair, aesthetics, and the ethics of belief. He also has a developing interest in food ethics, and is currently working on a Massive Open Online Course on “Food Ethics” for Coursera.

Mark Lance is Professor of Philosophy, and Professor and co-director of the Program on Justice and Peace at Georgetown University. He has worked mostly in the areas of philosophy of language, metaphysics and epistemology, and philosophical logic, but writes as well on pragmatism, feminism, meta-ethics, the foundations of mathematics, anarchist theory, and applied issues of social justice activism. Professor Lance has published over 50 articles and two books in philosophy as well as many articles for popular and movement publications. He is currently writing a book on revolutionary nonviolence with historian and activist Matt Meyer, and continuing the normative pragmatics project with Quill Kukla. Their most recent joint paper is “Telling Gender: the pragmatics and ethics of gender ascriptions.” Professor Lance has been an activist and organizer for over 35 years on a wide range of issues. A long time ago in a world far away, he was an orchestral trumpet player. His current passions, outside philosophy and fighting the rise of fascism, include coaching a rowing team and blitz chess.

Ainsley LeSure is Assistant Professor of Africana Studies and Political Science. She specializes in political theory with a particular focus on the critical theory of race and racism, social justice, and democratic theory. Her current book project, tentatively titled, *Locating Racism in the World: Toward an Anti-Racist Reality*, reconceptualizes racism in the post-Civil Rights era. Specifically, it calls for a shift away from framing post-Civil Rights racism as either unconscious or institutional and toward a worldly phenomenological account of racism that theorizes the relationship between its individual and collective determinants.

Vincent Lloyd is Professor of Theology and Religious Studies at Villanova University, where he directs the Center for Political Theology. His research focuses on the intersection of religion, race, and politics using the tools of critical theory. Professor Lloyd's books include *Black Dignity: The Struggle Against Domination* (Yale UP, 2022),

the co-authored *Break Every Yoke: Religion, Justice, and the Abolition of Prisons* (Oxford UP, 2019), *Black Natural Law* (Oxford UP, 2016), and the co-edited *Race and Secularism in America* (Columbia UP, 2018). Lloyd co-edits the journal *Political Theology* and edits the book series *Transforming Political Theologies*, published by Routledge. He is the recipient of several grants from institutions that include the American Academy of Religion, the Louisville Institute, and the American Council of Learned Societies. He has held visiting positions at Emory, Notre Dame, Wisconsin, Virginia, and Durham.

John Lysaker is the William R. Kenan Professor of Philosophy at Emory University. He was educated at Kenyon College and Vanderbilt University, and has also taught at the University of Oregon. His recurring interests include the nature and import of art, the self and its fate in schizophrenia as well as the good life writ large, with a particular eye on friendship. He approaches these phenomena through a contesting set of figures and traditions ranging from Aristotle to Emerson and Marx to Heidegger, Adorno, and Beauvoir. Believing that philosophy is always philosophy *of* something, his work is insistently interdisciplinary, and often in dialogue with works of art. Recent books include *Philosophy, Writing, and the Character of Thought* (Chicago, 2018), *Ambient 1: Brian Eno's Music for Airports* (Oxford, 2018) and the forthcoming *Hope, Trust, and Forgiveness: Essays in Finitude* (Chicago, 2023).

Ryan Preston-Roedder is an Associate Professor of Philosophy at Occidental College. He specializes in moral and political philosophy, moral psychology, philosophy of religion, and Africana philosophy. His current work explores meaning in life and the problem of the absurd, the nature and significance of the religious outlook, and the moral and political significance of love.

Melvin L. Rogers is Associate Professor of Political Science and Associate Director of the Center for Philosophy, Politics and Economics at Brown University. He specializes in the history of political thought, with a special focus on American and African American political thought, pragmatism, and democratic theory. He is the author of *The Undiscovered Dewey: Religion, Morality, and the Ethos of Democracy*, editor of *John Dewey* (Columbia University Press, 2008), *The Public and Its Problems* (2016), and co-editor of *African American Political Thought: A Collected History* (University of Chicago Press, 2021). His book with Princeton University Press titled, *The Darkened Light of Faith: Race, Democracy, and Freedom in African American Political Thought*, is forthcoming 2023.

Katie Stockdale is an assistant professor at University of Victoria, Department of Philosophy. She joined the department as an Assistant Professor in 2019 and was

previously an Assistant Professor at Sam Houston State University. She was also a research fellow in the *Hope & Optimism: Conceptual and Empirical Investigations Project* at Cornell University. Her interests include: moral psychology, feminist philosophy, social and political philosophy. In 2021, her book *Hope Under Oppression* was published.