

Curriculum Vitae  
Lester K. Spence

**PERSONAL DATA**

Lester K. Spence  
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<http://lesterspence.com>

**APPOINTMENTS**

2012- Associate Professor, Department of Political Science, Johns Hopkins University  
2005-2012. Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, Johns Hopkins University  
2001-2005. Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, African And Afro-American Studies Program, Washington University in St. Louis

**EDUCATION**

Ph.D. (Political Science), University of Michigan, 2001  
Dissertation: "Strings of Life: Gender, and Political Participation in Detroit"  
Committee Members: Hanes Walton (Chair), Nancy Burns, Ann Lin, Michael Traugott  
B.A. (Political Science), University of Michigan, 1991

**FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS**

2015-16 Johns Hopkins University Community Fellow  
2009 Johns Hopkins University Excellence in Teaching Award (nominated 2010)  
2004-2006 Kellogg Scholar in Health Disparities.  
2000 University of Michigan Black Alumni Five Under Ten Alumni Award  
1994-1998 Rackham Merit Fellow.  
1992-1994 CIC Predoctoral Fellow.

**GRANTS**

2015 "How do Black Lives Matter? Assessing the Determinants and Consequences of Municipal Police Spending". 21<sup>st</sup> Century Cities Seed Grant. \$60,000  
2012 "Racial/Black/Urban Politics: A Redesign". Johns Hopkins CER Grant for Humanities and Social Sciences. \$6,695  
2010 "Black Visual Politics". Johns Hopkins Arts and Science Innovation Grant (teaching). \$7,000  
2009. "Black Elite Rhetoric and American Public Opinion", Time-Shared Experiments in Social Sciences Research Competition Winner.

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2009. "Revisiting Black Incorporation and Local Political Participation", *Urban Affairs Review* 45 (2):274-285. (with Harwood McClerking and Robert Brown)  
2007. "AIDS, Context, and Black Politics." *National Political Science Review* 11:87-102. (with Rena Boss-Victoria)  
2005. "True to their Native Land: Distinguishing Attitudinal Support for Pan-Africanism from Black Nationalism." *The Dubois Review: Social Science Research on Race*. 2 (1): 91-111. (with Todd Shaw and Rob Brown)  
2005. "Why Do People Accept Public Policies They Oppose? Testing Legitimacy Theory with a Survey-Based Experiment." *Political Research Quarterly* 58 (2): 187-201. (with James Gibson and Greg Caldeira)  
2005 "Race and the Green Mile." *National Political Science Review*. 10: 136-46.  
2004. "Race and Representation in Detroit's Community Development Coalitions, 1985-1993" *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*. 594: 125-142. (with Todd Shaw)  
2003. "The Supreme Court and the US Presidential Election of 2000: Wounds, Self-Inflicted or Otherwise?" *British Journal of Political Science*. 33 (4): 535-556. (with James Gibson and Greg Caldeira)  
2003. "Measuring Attitudes Towards the Supreme Court." *American Journal of Political Science*. 47 (2):354-367. (with James Gibson and Greg Caldeira)  
2002. "The Role of Theory in Experimental Design: Experiments Without Randomization." *Political Analysis* 10: 362-375. (with James Gibson and Greg Caldeira)  
2001. "African American Presidential Convention and Nomination Politics: Alan Keyes in the 1996 Republican Presidential Primary and Convention." *National Political Science Review* 7: 188-209. (with Hanes Walton)

**NON-REFEREED ARTICLES**

2015. "Can You Feel It? Stuart Hall, Richard Iton, and Frankie Knuckles (in Memoriam)." *Contemporary Political Theory*.  
2013. "Heroism and the Political Scientist: Reflections on Richard Iton, Nick Nelson, and Hanes Walton." *Politics, Groups, and Identities* 1 (4):594-601.  
2014. "Guest Editor's Note." *Souls* 16 (3-4):143-7. (with Mark Anthony Neal)

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2005. "HIV/AIDS and African American Public Opinion". Time-Shared Experiments in Social Sciences Research Competition Winner.

2003. "The St. Louis Young Citizen Study." Weidenbaum Center on the Economy, Government, and Public Policy. \$5,000

2003. "The St. Louis Young Citizen Study." The Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement (CIRCLE). \$25,000

2001. "The American Citizenship Project." Weidenbaum Center on the Economy, Government, and Public Policy. \$10,000 (with Robert A. Brown and Christopher Parker)

2000. "The Legitimacy of Legal and Political Institutions in a Divided Polity: A Longitudinal Analysis of the Consequences of the U.S. Presidential Election, 2001-2005." Weidenbaum Center on the Economy, Government, and Public Policy. \$36,552.00 (with James Gibson and Greg Caldeira)

2000. "The Legitimacy of Legal and Political Institutions in a Divided Polity: A Longitudinal Analysis of the Consequences of the U.S. Presidential Election, 2001-2005." Ford Foundation. \$30,000.00 (with James Gibson and Greg Caldeira)

**BOOKS**

2015. *Knocking the Hustle: Against the Neoliberal Turn in Black Politics*. New York: Punctum Press.

2011. *Stare in the Darkness: Rap, Hip-hop, and Black Politics*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press. (2013 National Conference of Black Political Scientists W. E. B. Dubois Distinguished Book Award)

**EDITED JOURNALS**

2014. "'Transition with a Real Slow Fade': The Life and Work of Richard Iton." *Souls* 16 (3-4). (with Mark Anthony Neal)

**REFEREED ARTICLES**

2010. "Context, Black Empowerment, and African American Political Participation". *American Political Research* 38 (5): 909-930. (with Harwood McClerking)  
2010. "Episodic Frames, HIV/AIDS, and African American Public Opinion" *Political Research Quarterly* 63:2: 257-268.

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**BOOK CHAPTERS AND ENCYCLOPEDIA ENTRIES**

2012. "Occupy and the 99%" in *We Are Many: Reflections on Movement Strategy from Occupation to Liberation* eds. Kate Khatib, Margaret Killjoy, and Mike McGuire  
2011. "Detroit, 1929-1941." In *Cities in American Political History*. ed. Richard Dillworth. Washington D.C.:CQ Press  
2011. "Detroit, 1952-1989." In *Cities in American Political History*. ed. Richard Dillworth. Washington D.C.:CQ Press  
2009. "Hype, Hip-Hop, and Heartbreak: The Rise and Fall of Kwame Kilpatrick" (with Athena King and Todd Shaw) in *Whose Black Politics? Cases in Post-Racial Black Leadership* ed. Andra Gillespie. New York: Routledge Press

**IN PROGRESS**

*Live and Let Die: HIV/AIDS, Biopolitics and The Topologies of Blackness* (book manuscript)

**BOOK REVIEWS**

2010 *Blue Chip Black: Race, Class, and Status in the New Black Middle Class*. *Urban Affairs Review* 45 (4): 575-578.  
2008 *The Neoliberal City: Governance, Ideology, and Development in American Urbanism and Noxious New York: The Racial Politics of Urban Health and Environmental Justice*. *Perspectives in Politics*. 6 (3): 607-608.  
2004 "Democracy Matters: Winning the Fight Against Imperialism" *Washington Post*.  
2003 "Beyond Black: Biracial Identity in America." *Nationalism and Ethnic Politics* 9(2): 142-144  
2002 "Atlas of a Difficult World." *Belles Lettres: A Literary Review* 1(4): 4.  
2002 "At the Hands of Persons Unknown." *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*.  
2001 "Not Guilty: Twelve Black Men Speak Out on Law, Justice, and Life." *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*.

**SELECT ESSAYS AND MASS MEDIA**

Spence CV

2015. "'Coates Is a Realist, Not a Pessimist': Lester Spence Responds to Melvin Rogers." *Dissent*.
2015. "Is Obama Finally Becoming the President African Americans Wanted?" Morning Edition (National Public Radio). July 17, 2015.
2015. "Corporate Welfare Is Draining Baltimore." *Boston Review*, May 14, 2015.
2015. "Criminal Justice Reform, Racial and Socioeconomic Factors." *Washington Journal (C-Span)*. May 7, 2015.
2015. "Why Baltimore Was a Time Bomb." *New York Daily News*, April 29, 2015.
2015. "How Do We Change Broken Police Relations in America?" *PBS Newshour*. April 29, 2015.
2015. "Baltimore Mayor Under Intense Scrutiny Following Street Violence." Morning Edition (National Public Radio). April 29, 2015.
2015. "Police-Community Relations Pushed to the Brink in Baltimore". *The Takeaway (National Public Radio)*. April 27, 2015.
2015. "For Black People, There Is Martin Luther King's Dream." *New York Times*, January 1, 2015.
2014. "Fight for Voting Rights and Progressive Initiatives." *New York Times*, December 22, 2014.
2014. "Michael Brown and Ferguson." *BBC 5Live*. August 22, 2014.
2014. "On Ferguson." *BBC Newsnight*. August 19, 2014.
2014. "In Twenty Years Ferguson Changed, But It's Institutions Didn't." *Inside Story (Al-Jazeera America)*. August 20, 2014.
2014. "The Obama Presidency: Too Little Too Late for Minority Communities?" *The Takeaway (National Public Radio)*. July 15, 2014.
2014. "Is Policy or Mentorship Needed for Young Men of Color?" *The Takeaway (National Public Radio)*. February 28, 2014.
2013. "Obama Breaks Silence on Trayvon Martin Verdict." *Weekend Edition Saturday*. July 20, 2013.

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2010. "Redemption for Bush in Haiti." *Tell Me More (National Public Radio)*. January 2010.
2009. "Health Care Overhaul." *Tell Me More (National Public Radio)*. December 2009.
2009. "'Barbershop' Guys React to Ft. Hood Shootings." November 2009.
2009. "Reflecting: One Year Since the Election of Obama." *Tell Me More (National Public Radio)*. November 2009.
2009. "Obama Happy Hour: Can't We All Just Get Along?" *Tell Me More (National Public Radio)*. July 2009.
2009. "Tragic Deaths of Jackson, McNair Stir Reflection." *Tell Me More (National Public Radio)*. July 2009.
2009. "Southern GOP Activist Likens First Lady to an Ape." *Tell Me More (National Public Radio)*. June 2009.
2009. "Dick Cheney's Third Term?" *Tell Me More (National Public Radio)*. May 2009.
2009. "Will the White House Now Service Your Car?" *Tell Me More (National Public Radio)*. April 2009.
2009. "Inauguration, 'Barberhop Style.'" *Tell Me More (National Public Radio)*. January 2009.
2009. "Not a Shy Week for Rod Blagojevich." *Tell Me More (National Public Radio)*. January 2009.
2008. "Is Obama Implicated by the Blagojevich Scandal?" *Tell Me More (National Public Radio)*. December 2008.
2008. "Barbershop Reviews RNC, Kilpatrick Drama." *Tell Me More (National Public Radio)*. October 2008.
2008. "Obama Selects Biden: Now What?" *Tell Me More (National Public Radio)*. August 2008.
2008. "Poll: Age Could Trump Race Among Voters." *Tell Me More (National Public Radio)*. June 2008.

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2012. "Race and Michigan Politics." *American Black Journal*. December 2012.
2012. "Election Day Coverage." *The Real News Network*. November 2012.
2012. "Unions, Who Needs 'Em." *Tell Me More (National Public Radio)*. December 2012.
2012. Guest panelist. *The Melissa Harris-Perry Show*. November 2012.
2011. "Professor Fulfills Obligation as a Father of Five." *Tell Me More (National Public Radio)*. June 2011.
2010. "Obama's Compromise Bad for Blacks?" *Tell Me More (National Public Radio)*. December 2010.
2010. "Suicide Prevention: We Can't Afford to Drop the Ball." *Tell Me More (National Public Radio)*. September 2010.
2010. "It's All About Education." *Tell Me More (National Public Radio)*. September 2010.
2010. "Black Voters May Stay Away from Polls in November." *All Things Considered (National Public Radio)*. September 2010.
2010. "Marches Alone Cannot Fix Education." *TheRoot.com*, 9/3/2010.
2010. "Shop Talk: Glenn Beck A Civil Rights Leader?" *Tell Me More (National Public Radio)*. August 2010.
2010. "Shop Talk: The Sherrrod Shuffle." *Tell Me More (National Public Radio)*. July 2010.
2010. "White House Fatherhood Initiative Garners Praise, Scrutiny." *Tell Me More (National Public Radio)*. June 2010.
2010. "We Need More Than Obama's Trust to Support Kagan." *TheRoot.com*, 5/11/2010.
2010. "Beyond Blame for Aiyana's Death." *TheRoot.com*, 5/25/2010.
2010. "New York Gov. David Paterson in Boiling Water." *Tell Me More (National Public Radio)*. February 2010.
2010. "White Space, Black Space." *The Urbanite*, February 2010, 43, 5, 75.

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2008. "Debating Clinton's Chance at VP" *Tell Me More (National Public Radio)*. June 2008.
2008. "Sound and Fury on the Campaign Trail" *Salon.com*, January 2008.
2006. "What do we do about the health care system?" *Audio Essay. News and Notes with Ed Gordon (National Public Radio)*, July 10, 2006.
2006. "Infant Mortality Rates at Odds with Culture of Life." *Audio Essay. News and Notes with Ed Gordon (National Public Radio)*, June 5, 2006.
2005. "Delphi Bankruptcy and the Effects on Detroit." *Audio Essay. News and Notes with Ed Gordon (National Public Radio)*, October 19, 2005.
2005. "Roundtable: The African American Middle Class." *Audio Essay. News and Notes with Ed Gordon (National Public Radio)*, October 12, 2005.
2005. "A Perspective on Hurricane Katrina, Looters, and Race." *Audio Essay. News and Notes with Ed Gordon (National Public Radio)*, September 2, 2005.
2005. "Rethinking Down Low Politics." *Essay. Published on Africana.com*. September 2005.
2005. "Calling on a New Generation to Save Black Museum." *Audio Essay. News and Notes with Ed Gordon (National Public Radio)*, August 9, 2005.
2005. "New Bankruptcy Laws will Hurt Middle Class." *Audio Essay. News and Notes with Ed Gordon (National Public Radio)*, May 17, 2005.
2005. "Judicial Nominees, Filibusters, and the Media." *Audio Essay. News and Notes with Ed Gordon (National Public Radio)*, April 27, 2005.
2005. "Newt Gingrich and Black Health." *Essay. Published on Africana.com*. March 2005.

**SELECT PROFESSIONAL CONFERENCES**

2014. "Against the Black Pragmatic: Afro-Pessimism and the Case of Urban Debate", *American Political Science Association*.
2014. "The City is the Black Man's Land", *The Right to the City in an Era of Austerity*, Paris.

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2014. "Off to Battle (Imagining Detroit)" Deindustrialization and Its Aftermath: Class, Culture, and Resistance, Montreal.
2013. "Contemporary Black Politics in the US: From Invisible to Visible? A Roundtable in Honor of Hanes Walton Jr." Chair. American Political Science Association.
2013. "Secondary Marginalization and the Neoliberal Turn". Paper presented at the American Political Science Association.
2013. "Genealogies of Neoliberalism". Chair and Discussant. American Studies Association
2012. "Race and Occupy Wall Street." Paper accepted for presentation at the American Political Science Association. (conference cancelled due to Hurricane Isaac)
2010. "Black Power and the Neoliberal Turn" Paper presented at the American Political Science Association.
2009. "Obama and the Cities" Roundtable participant at the American Political Science Association.
2009. "The Neoliberal Turn in Black Politics." Paper presented at the Western Political Science Association.
2006. "Hip-Hop and Political Attitudes: Testing the Edutainment Theory." Paper presented at the American Political Science Association Conference.
2006. "Keep it on the Down Low." Paper presented at the Kellogg Scholar Symposium.
2006. "Black and Blue: Determinants of Youth Attitudes Towards the Police." Paper presented at the International Civics Conference.
2005. "Rethinking Black Empowerment." Paper presented at the Kellogg Scholar Symposium.
2003. "Unpleasant Buffoonery: The Jesse Jackson Phenomenon, and the Al Sharpton Campaign." Paper presented at the American Political Science Association.

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2015. "Solidarity 101". The University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.
2015. "The Right to Ferguson: Race, Rights, and Power in the 21st Century." Depauw University.
2014. Martin Luther King Jr. Keynote Lecture. George Mason University.
2013. "From Discourse to Action: Civic Engagement that Matters." Community and Civic Engagement Convening. W. K. Kellogg Foundation.
2013. "Stare in the Darkness: The Limits of Hip-hop and Black Politics." Department of Political Science. Providence College.
2013. "Stare in the Darkness: The Limits of Hip-hop and Black Politics." Department of Sociology. Stonehill College.
2013. "Stare in the Darkness: The Limits of Hip-hop and Black Politics." Department of Gender and Race Speaker Series. University of Alabama
2013. "Hanes Walton: A Reflection". Conference in Honor of Hanes Walton. Department of Political Science. University of Michigan.
2012. "Black Politics and the Neoliberal Turn." University of Pennsylvania American Politics Speaker series.
2012. "Race and the Presidential Election." Rap Sessions.
2012. "We Are Many: Reflections on Movement Strategy From Occupation to Liberation" Baltimore Book Festival.
2012. "Trayvon Martin and the Political Imagination." Clarke Forum Speaker Series. Dickinson College.
2012. "Stare in the Darkness: The Limits of Hip-hop and Black Politics." Department of Sociology Speaker Series. Towson University.
2012. "Stare in the Darkness: The Limits of Hip-hop and Black Politics." Wayne State University Speaker Series.
2011. "Stare in the Darkness: The Limits of Hip-hop and Black Politics." American Politics Speaker Series, Williams College.

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2003. Discussant, "Urban, Environmental, and Residential Challenges." Panel at the American Political Science Association.
2003. Discussant, "Race, Ethnicity, and Political Representation." Panel at the American Political Science Association.
2003. Chair, Discussant, "Ideology and Partisanship Among Racial and Ethnic Groups." Panel at the Midwest Political Science Association.
2003. "Off To Battle: Race, Class and Black Nationalism in Detroit." Poster presented at the Midwest Political Science Association.
2003. "Chocolate Cities, Chocolate Attitudes." (with Robert A. Brown) Paper presented at the National Conference of Black Political Scientists.
2002. Todd Shaw, Lester K. Spence, and Robert Brown, "The Periodicity of Pan-Africanism: Age, Class, and Changing Black Attitudes Towards the Diaspora, 1978-1993." Paper presented at the Midwest Political Science Association.
2002. "Race and the Green Mile." Paper presented at the National Conference of Black Political Scientists.

**COURSES TAUGHT**

Urban Politics  
Urban Policy  
Racial Politics  
Comparative Racial Politics  
Black Politics  
Black Visual Politics  
African American Political Thought  
Black Nationalist Political Thought  
The Politics of Black Cultural Production  
Black Power Fantasies  
Public Opinion  
Race and the City  
Race and the Neoliberal Turn

**INVITED TALKS, SPEECHES AND PRESENTATIONS**

2015. "Redlining, economic violence, and the moral challenge of the Baltimore Uprising." Emmanuel Episcopal Church.
2015. "Baltimore Riot 2015: Causes, Consequences, Solutions." Open Forum, Broadmead Center.

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2011. "Stare in the Darkness: The Limits of Hip-hop and Black Politics." Department of Communication Speaker Series, The University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.
2011. "Stare in the Darkness: The Limits of Hip-hop and Black Politics." Speaker Series, Enoch Pratt Library, Maryland.
2011. "A Tribute to Manning Marable." Speaker Series, Enoch Pratt Library, Maryland.
2011. "Race and the Neoliberal Turn." The Baltimore Ethical Society.
2010. "Stare in the Darkness: The Limits of Hip-hop and Black Politics." American Politics Speaker Series, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.
2010. "Constructing Pookie: The Neoliberal Politics of the Black Male Crisis" Fisher Center *Engendering Crisis* Lecture Series. Hobart and William Smith Colleges.
2010. "Change We Can Believe In: The Obama Effect on Public Opinion." American Politics Workshop, Dartmouth College.
2009. "Change We Can Believe In" American Politics Speaker Series, Texas A & M
2009. "The Neoliberal Turn in Black Politics." Center for New Institutional Social Sciences Speaker Series. Washington University in Saint Louis
2009. "The Neoliberal Turn in Black Politics." African American Politics Speaker Series. Columbia University
2009. "The Neoliberal Turn in Black Politics." Colloquium on Race, Ethnicity, and Immigration. University of California, Berkeley
2008. "Episodic Marginalization, the Media, and African American Public Opinion." Racial Politics Speaker Series. UCLA.
2008. "Racial Politics and the Presidential Election of 2008." Occidental College.
2006. "Black and Blue: Determinants of Youth Attitudes Towards the Police" University of Colorado, Boulder. Political Science Speaker Series.
2005. "From Hip Hop to Politics." Whittier College, Diversity Week.

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2003. "Diminished Returns: The Impact of Black Empowerment on Black Political Behavior and Attitudes." Cornell University, Department of Government Speaker Series.

2003. "Towards a Critique of Positive Images." Black Think Tank, Kansas City.

2003. "Reflections on September 11, 2001." Washington University September 11 Memorial, Washington University in St. Louis.

2002. "Racial Profiling." Radio interview with KDHX. June 2002.

2002. "Hip-Hop, the African American Scholar, and the African American Community." Panel Discussion held by the Chancellor Fellows, Washington University in St. Louis.

2001. "Excellence and Integrity." Speech delivered to Feed My Sheep event sponsored by the Association of Black Students, Washington University in St. Louis. September 2001.

2001. "The NAACP and Black Leadership." Panel Discussion held by the Chancellor Fellows, Washington University in St. Louis.

**SERVICE**

*Review Work*

Penn State University Press  
Routledge Press  
W.E.B. Dubois Review  
National Science Foundation  
Political Behavior  
Social Science Quarterly  
Journal of Politics  
Public Opinion Quarterly  
Political Research Quarterly  
American Journal of Political Science  
Law and Society Review  
Urban Affairs Review  
Lynne Rienner Press  
Yale University Press  
Columbia University Press

*Associations*

National Conference of Black Political Scientists  
Section Co-Chair, Political Theory, 2012.

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Section Chair, Public Opinion and Political Behavior, 2003  
Midwest Political Science Association  
American Political Science Association  
Section Co-Chair, Urban Politics 2008  
Executive Council, Urban Politics 2004-2006  
Teacher and Learning Committee 2004-2006

*Editorial Boards*

Politics, Groups, and Identities (2011-)

*Hopkins Service*

21<sup>st</sup> Century Cities Executive Board  
Race in America Lecture Forum Planning Committee  
Center for Africana Studies Executive Board  
American Politics Search Committee  
Dean's Teaching Fellowship Committee  
Excellence in Teaching Award Committee  
Interfaith Center Race Dialogues

*City of Baltimore*

Board Member, The Intersection  
Board Member, Research Associates Foundation  
Board Member, Ingoma Foundation  
Founder, The Baltimore Mixtape Project

*Consultancies*

National Legal Aid Defenders Association  
Kellogg Foundation