The Future of Whiteness
Friday 21 August

Institute for Social Justice Seminar Series

Location:
Date:    Friday 21 August
Time:    1pm-3pm
Venue:   Australian Catholic University
Level 16 – Meeting Room 16AB,
Tenison Woods House
8 – 20 Napier Street, North Sydney

Speaker: Linda Martín Alcoff

Abstract
Is racism constitutive of white identity? If we imagine this to
be the case, does it eclipse the scope of future transformations
of white identity, making any positive transformation literally
unimaginable? What are the future possibilities for white
identity? This is not just an effort at prediction, as if whiteness
is some natural phenomena we can only observe from a distance.
Whiteness is an identity born of both history and current
practices, so the question of the future is a question about what
we should do now. In this talk I offer a general account of what
social identities are and then, what whiteness is now, in order
to understand the limits and obstacles to revisioning or
refashioning whiteness.

Bio
Professor Linda Martín Alcoff is Professor of Philosophy at
Hunter College and the CUNY Graduate Center, and Professorial
Fellow at the Institute for Social Justice, Australian Catholic
University, North Sydney. She has degrees from Georgia State
University and Brown University, and has held positions at
Syracuse University, SUNY Stony Brook and Kalamazoo College,
and visiting appointments at Cornell, Brown, Florida Atlantic
University, and the University of Aarhus.

Her writings have focused on social identity and race,
estepistemology and politics, sexual violence, Foucault,
Dussel, and Latino issues in philosophy. She has written two
books: Visible Identities: Race, Gender and the Self (Oxford
2006), Real Knowing: New Versions of the Coherence Theory
(Cornell 1996); and she has edited ten, including Feminist
Epistemologies co-edited with Elizabeth Potter (Routledge, 1993);
Thinking From the Underside of History co-edited with Eduardo Mendieta (Rowman & Littlefield, 2000);
Epistemology: The Big Questions (Blackwell, 1998); Identities co-edited with Eduardo Mendieta (Blackwell, 2002); Singing
in the Fire: Tales of Women in Philosophy (Rowman and Littlefield 2003); The Blackwell Guide to Feminist Philosophy
co-edited with Eva Feder Kittay (Blackwell 2006); Identity Politics Reconsidered co-edited with Michael Hames-Garcia,
Satya Mohanty and Paula Moya (Palgrave, 2006); Constructing the Nation: A Race and Nationalism Reader co-edited
with Mariana Ortega (SUNY 2009); Saint Paul among the Philosophers co-edited with Jack Caputo (Indiana, 2009);
Feminism, Sexuality, and the Return of Religion co-edited with Jack Caputo (Indiana 2011).

Contact
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