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## Seminar Series



**Guest Speaker: Professor George Yancy**

***'Whiteness as Normative: The Black Body as a Problem'***

**Where: A105 Kelvin Grove Campus**

**When: June 7<sup>th</sup> 2013, 10:00am – 11:30am**

**Abstract:** In this talk I argue that whiteness is what I call the "transcendental norm," that is, whiteness is that which defines nonwhites as different/deviant/raced. As such, the Black Body, especially the Black male body, is constructed as a problem, a problem that the Black body has as a feature of its very being. The Black body is ontologically a problem. In short, the Black body is responded to as the very essence of criminality, deviance, evil. I explore the lived dimensions of Blackness vis-a-vis whiteness within the context of an elevator, demonstrating that it is not the Black male body that is the problem, but whiteness as transcendental norm, as a site of ethical solipsism and privilege. I examine the dynamics of the encounter, revealing how white racism works within the space of the everyday. I conclude with the suggestion that whiteness must be put into a state crisis, such that it loses its way in a world that supports its status as ontologically, ethically, and epistemologically normative.

**Bio:** Dr. George Yancy is Professor of Philosophy at Duquesne University. He received his BA (with honors) in Philosophy at the University of Pittsburgh, his first Master's Degree from Yale University in Philosophy, and his second Master's degree in Africana Studies from NYU, where he received a distinguished Fellowship. His PhD (with distinction) is in Philosophy from Duquesne University. His work focuses primarily in the areas of critical philosophy of race, critical whiteness studies, and philosophy of the Black experience. His books include:

Yancy, G. 2012. *Look, A White! Philosophical Essays on Whiteness*, Philadelphia, PA: Temple University Press.

Yancy, G. (ed.) 2010. *The Center Must Not Hold: White Women Philosophers on the Whiteness of Philosophy*. Lanham, MD: Lexington Books.

Yancy, G. 2008. *Black Bodies, White Gazes: The Continuing Significance of Race*. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield.

Spaces are limited and to confirm your attendance please RSVP your name and email address by **Friday May 31<sup>st</sup>** to: [isrn@qut.edu.au](mailto:isrn@qut.edu.au)