

WIJSBEGEERTE *Philosophie* Φιλοσοφία 哲学 *Filosofia* Fi

African Centre for Epistemology and Philosophy of Science ([ACEPS](#))

11 am Tuesday, 16 July 2024

UJ on Empire 11th-Floor

Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/94161656201>

NIHSS funded Philosophy Through Indigenous Knowledge Speaker Series presents: Tancredo Tivane (The University of Arkansas Fayetteville) on “Black self-perception: A Fanonian and a Du Boisian challenge to anti-inequality strategies”



The African Centre for Epistemology
and Philosophy of Science

Abstract: “It is widely accepted in social and political philosophy that the prevailing economic disparities and achievement gaps between black and white communities are the direct result of historical injustices. To address these disparities, various strategies have been proposed. In her work, *The Imperative of Integration*, Anderson (2010) categorizes and contrasts these strategies into two distinct camps. One camp includes race-unconscious approaches such as affirmative action and DEI (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion) policies. The other camp advocates for race-conscious approaches and colorblind policies, which advocate for completely disregarding race as a factor in access to economic opportunities. In this paper, I argue that both strands of proposals for addressing black-white economic inequalities and achievement gaps caused by racialism are incomplete because they are predicated on white perceptions of blackness and fail to address black self-perception. Drawing on Franz Fanon's concept of white narcissism and black inferiority, as well as Du Bois' notion of black double-consciousness, I argue that both camps presume the solution to the black-white economic disparity rests on whites ceasing discriminatory practices and opening doors of opportunity for blacks in their institutions. However, they ignore the burden that black folks carry as a result of internalized stigma. This stigma, which is used to justify their oppression and force them into poor economic conditions, has an impact on blacks' sense of self. It shapes their self-perception, which, if left unaddressed, can hinder the prospects of economic mobility even when opportunity is given.”



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