

Paul C. Taylor

What We Wanted: Recovering from the Obama Era

**Thursday, December 4th
7:00 pm**

Hardie Auditorium, Palmer Hall

**[A reception and book signing will follow
immediately after the lecture
in the lobby of Hardie Auditorium.]**

When Barack Hussein Obama became the president of the United States, observers around the world and across the political spectrum decided that a new age was dawning. Obama's critics lamented this historical shift, while his supporters applauded it. "What We Wanted" will explore Mr. Obama's meanings for U.S. racial politics. This will not mean evaluating his effectiveness as a politician or statesman, or measuring the gap between his campaign promises and his administration's policies. It will mean taking seriously the thought that racial history has somehow been interrupted, and considering the warrant for this thought in light of what we know about race.



Paul C. Taylor is an associate professor of philosophy and African American Studies at Pennsylvania State University, and a 2014-15 Edmond J. Safra Network Fellow at Harvard University. Professor Taylor received his bachelor's degree in philosophy from Morehouse College and his Ph.D. in philosophy from Rutgers University. He has provided commentary on race and politics for newspapers and radio shows on four continents, and has lectured at universities from Cape Town to Cornell. He is the author of *Race: A Philosophical Introduction*, and is currently working on a book entitled *Black is Beautiful: A Philosophy of Black Aesthetics*.

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