

Henry Louis Gates, Jr. and Glenn & Debbie Hutchins Present

The 2023 Hutchins Forum A Panel Discussion

The Rise and Fall of Affirmative Action

Thursday, August 17 at 5pm | The Old Whaling Church, Edgartown MA



Tickets available Monday 7/31 at Noon ET
reserve at hutchinsforum23.eventbrite.com



Stream the discussion
pbs.org/newshour



Host Henry Louis Gates, Jr. *Harvard University*

Moderator Charlayne Hunter-Gault *Author & Journalist*

Panel

Jay Caspian Kang *The New Yorker* **Randall Kennedy** *Harvard Law School*

John McWhorter *Columbia University* **Melissa Murray** *NYU School of Law*

Respondent

Laurence H. Tribe *Harvard Law School*



Hutchins Center
for African &
African American
Research

Harvard
University



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The 2023 Hutchins Forum



Since 1995, the Hutchins Center for African & African American Research at Harvard University has presented an annual panel discussion at the historic Old Whaling Church in Edgartown, Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts. Leading thinkers in the field of African and African American studies have participated, including Charles Blow, Jelani Cobb, Lani Guinier, Charles Ogletree, Cornel West, Patricia Williams, and Leah Wright Rigueur, and, in 2004, future President of the United States, Barack Obama.

Panel topics have included "Locked Out, Locked Up: Black Men in America," "Separate but Unequal: Closing the Education Gap," "When Work Disappears: Equality and Opportunity in the African American Community," "One Nation: Diverse & Divided," "Race-ing Obama: Unraveling Criticism of the First Black President," "Black Millennials: They Rock, But Can They Rule?," "Race & the Race to the White House," "Race & Racism in the Age of Trump," "A Single Garment of Destiny: MLK's Dream in the Age of Trump," "Divided We Stand: Can We Overcome?," "America's Racial Reckoning: The Pandemic(s) and the Election," and "Culture Wars in Black and White."

Host Henry Louis Gates, Jr.



Henry Louis Gates, Jr. is the Alphonse Fletcher University Professor and Director of the Hutchins Center for African & African American Research at Harvard University. Emmy and Peabody Award-winning filmmaker, literary scholar, journalist, cultural critic, and institution builder, Professor Gates has published numerous books and produced and hosted an array of documentary films. *The Black Church* (PBS) and *Frederick Douglass: In Five Speeches* (HBO), which he executive produced, have each received Emmy nominations. *Finding Your Roots*, Gates's groundbreaking genealogy and genetics series, is going into its tenth season on PBS.

Gates is a recipient of a number of honorary degrees, including from his alma mater, the University of Cambridge. Gates was a member of the first class awarded “genius grants” by the MacArthur Foundation in 1981, and in 1998 he became the first African American scholar to be awarded the National Humanities Medal.

A native of Piedmont, West Virginia, Gates earned his B.A. in History, summa cum laude, from Yale University in 1973, and his M.A. and Ph.D. in English Literature from Clare College at Cambridge in 1979, where he is also an Honorary Fellow. A former chair of the Pulitzer Prize board, he is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Letters and serves on a wide array of boards, including the New York Public Library, the NAACP Legal

Defense Fund, the Aspen Institute, the Whitney Museum of American Art, Library of America, and The Studio Museum of Harlem. In 2011, his portrait, by Yuqi Wang, was hung in the National Portrait Gallery in Washington, D.C. He is a member of the Phi Beta Kappa honor society.

Moderator Charlayne Hunter-Gault



Charlayne Hunter-Gault is an award-winning journalist with more than 60 years in the industry, extending her work at various times to all media including *The New Yorker*, NBC, *The New York Times*, PBS, NPR and CNN.

She is the author of five books, and her most recent, *My People*, was published by Harper Collins in 2022. It is a compilation of her 60 years of reporting on people of color. *Kirkus* cited it as one of the best non-fiction books of 2022, calling it “a wonderful showcase of the work of an invaluable 20th-century journalist.”

She is being honored this year for lifetime achievement by the prestigious Anisfield-Wolf Book Awards and is being inducted into the National Academy of Arts and Letters.

Hunter-Gault holds more than three dozen honorary degrees. She is married to retired businessman Ronald T. Gault, and has two adult children, Suesan, an artist and singer, and Chuma, an actor and director.

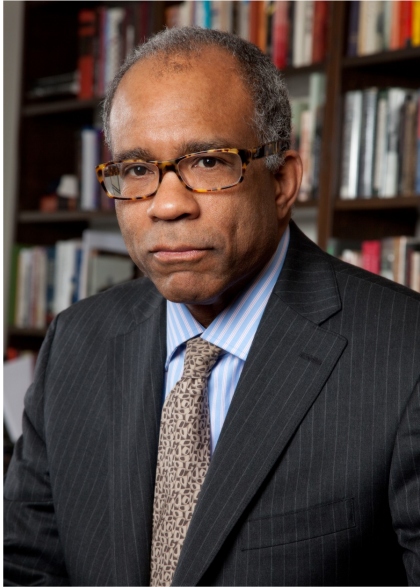
Panelist Jay Caspian Kang



Jay Caspian Kang is a staff writer at *The New Yorker*, and an Emmy-nominated documentary filmmaker. His debut novel, *The Dead Do Not Improve*, was released by the Hogarth/Random House in the summer of 2012, and in 2021 he published *The Loneliest Americans*, which was named to NPR's and *Time*'s lists of best books of 2021. He lives in Northern California with his family.

@jaycaspiankang

Panelist Randall Kennedy



Randall Kennedy is Michael R. Klein Professor of Law at Harvard Law School. Born in Columbia, S.C., he attended St. Albans School, Princeton University, Balliol College, Oxford University, and Yale Law School. He served as a law clerk to Judge J. Skelly Wright and to Justice Thurgood Marshall. He is a member of the bar of the District of Columbia, the bar of the United States Supreme Court, the American Law Institute, the American Philosophical Association, and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. His latest book is *Say It Loud! On Race, Law, History and Culture*.

Panelist John McWhorter



John McWhorter teaches linguistics at Columbia University, as well as Western Civilization and music history. He specializes in language change and language contact, and is the author of *The Missing Spanish Creoles*, *Language Simplicity and Complexity*, and *The Creole Debate*. He has written extensively on issues related to linguistics, race, and other topics for *Time*, *The New York Times*, CNN, the *Wall Street Journal*, *The New Republic* and elsewhere, and has been a Contributing Editor at *The Atlantic*. For the general public he is the author of *The Power of Babel*, *Our Magnificent Bastard Tongue*, *The Language Hoax*, *Words on the Move*, *Talking Back*, *Talking Black*, and other books, including *Nine Nasty Words* and *Woke Racism*, both of which were *New York Times* bestsellers. He hosts the Lexicon Valley language podcast, has authored six audiovisual sets on language for the Great Courses company, and has written a weekly newsletter for the *New York Times* since August 2021.

@JohnHMcWhorter

Panelist **Melissa Murray**



Melissa Murray is the Frederick I. and Grace Stokes Professor of Law at NYU School of Law, where she teaches constitutional law, family law, criminal law, and reproductive rights and justice. Her writing has appeared in a range of legal and lay publications, including the *Harvard Law Review*, the *Yale Law Journal*, the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post*, and *The Nation*. Prior to joining the NYU Law faculty, Murray was the Alexander F. and May T. Morrison Professor of Law at the University of California, Berkeley, where she received the law school's Rutter Award for Teaching Distinction, the Association of American Law School's Derrick A. Bell Award, and, from March 2016 to June 2017, served as interim dean of the law school. Murray serves a legal analyst for MSNBC and is a co-host of *Strict Scrutiny*, a Crooked Media podcast about the Supreme Court. A graduate of the University of Virginia and Yale Law School, Murray clerked for Sonia Sotomayor, then a judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, and Stefan Underhill of the U.S. District Court for the District of Connecticut. She is a member of the American Law Institute and the New York bar.

@ProfMMurray

Respondent Laurence H. Tribe

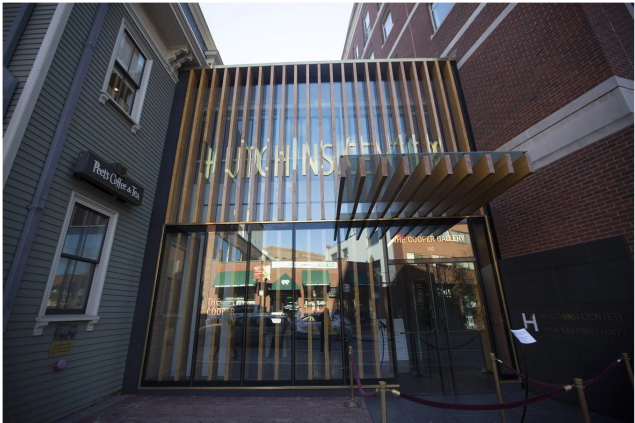


Laurence H. Tribe is the Carl M. Loeb University Professor of Constitutional Law Emeritus at Harvard University. The title “University Professor” is Harvard’s highest academic honor, awarded to fewer than 75 professors in the University’s history. Tribe taught at Harvard Law School since 1968; received tenure at 30; and was voted the best professor by the graduating class of 2000. Born in China to Russian Jewish parents, Tribe entered Harvard at 16; graduated *magna cum laude* with a *summa cum laude* in Mathematics (1962) and *magna cum laude* in Law (1966); clerked for the California and U.S. Supreme Courts (1966-68); was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 1979 and to the American Philosophical Society in 2010; helped write the constitutions of South Africa, the Czech Republic, and the Marshall Islands; has received eleven honorary degrees, most recently a degree *honoris causa* from the Government of Mexico in 2011 that was never before awarded to an American and D.Litt. degree from Columbia University in 2013; has

prevailed in three-fifths of the many appellate cases he has argued (including 35 in the U.S. Supreme Court); was appointed in 2010 by President Barack Obama to serve as the first Senior Counselor for Access to Justice and in 2021 by President Joseph R. Biden to serve on the Presidential Commission on the Supreme Court of the United States; and has written 115 books and articles, including his treatise, *American Constitutional Law*, cited more than any other legal text since 1950. Former Solicitor General Erwin Griswold wrote: “[N]o book, and no lawyer not on the [Supreme] Court, has ever had a greater influence on the development of American constitutional law,” and former U.S. Court of Appeals Judge J. Michael Luttig tweeted in January 2023, “Laurence H. Tribe has been the Nation’s preeminent constitutional scholar for the past half century.”

@tribelaw

About The Hutchins Center



The Hutchins Center for African & African American Research supports research on the history and culture of people of African descent the world over and provides a forum for collaboration and the ongoing exchange of ideas. It seeks to stimulate scholarly engagement in African and African

American studies both at Harvard and beyond, and to increase public awareness and understanding of this vital field of study. As the preeminent research center in the field, the Hutchins Center sponsors visiting fellows, art exhibitions, publications, research projects, archives, readings, conferences, and new media initiatives that respond to and generate interest in established and emerging channels of inquiry in African and African American research.

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Afro-Latin American
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Hiphop Archive &
Research Institute



History Design
Studio



Image of the Black
Archive & Library



Institute on Policing,
Incarceration, & Public
Safety



Project on Race
& Gender in
Science & Medicine



Transition Magazine



W. E. B. Du Bois
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"AS LONG AS THERE'S A HARVARD,
THE STUDY OF PEOPLE OF AFRICAN
DESCENT WILL HAVE A PLACE."

- HENRY LOUIS GATES, JR.
DIRECTOR, HUTCHINS CENTER AT HARVARD

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About The Hutchins Family Foundation

H Hutchins Family Foundation

Our approach is simple: we support causes and institutions we believe in, with an emphasis on helping the disadvantaged and fostering excellence.

In carrying out our mission, we only support initiatives that have personal meaning to our family members, and do not evaluate unsolicited requests. We avoid spreading ourselves thin by concentrating on a small number of projects in which we are deeply involved as decision-makers. We seek to have the greatest impact in the shortest period of time with the most efficient use of our resources. Last, we insist that the outcome of our work is as tangible, measurable and valuable as possible.

The Hutchins Family Foundation (HFF) was established by Debbie and Glenn Hutchins to manage the process by which the family decides what to support and how to engage. To date, we have focused our efforts in the fields of health care, education and public policy.

hutchinsfamilyfoundation.org

About PBS NewsHour



PBS NewsHour is the primary daily, breaking and special news producer for PBS. It produces PBS NewsHour, PBS News Weekend, and Washington Week, as well as has a robust footprint across digital and social platforms.

PBS NewsHour is co-anchored by Amna Nawaz and Geoff Bennett and features the latest news, analysis, field reports from around the world, live studio interviews and discussions. For almost 50 years, millions have turned to it as public broadcasting's marquee nightly news program for the solid, reliable reporting that has made it the most objective news program on television. PBS News Weekend is anchored by national correspondent John Yang. Washington Week is the longest-running primetime news and public affairs program on television.

pbs.org/newshour @NewsHour



About The Old Whaling Church



Designed by Fredrick Baylies, Jr., the Old Whaling Church was built by Edgartown's prosperous Methodist whaling captains and is regarded as one of the finest examples of Greek Revival architecture in New England. In addition to the stately Doric columns supporting a classic pediment, the exterior features a Gothic style bell tower which houses the Town Clock.

Skilled shipwrights were used to construct the Church, which was framed with massive timbers brought from the mainland. The trusses which support the roof are made from hand hewn 2'x2' beams, representing a very impressive feat of nineteenth century engineering and craftsmanship. Of particular note in the building's main hall are the original whale-oil lamps and a dramatic trompe l'oeil architectural mural by Swiss artist Carl Wendte, who worked with Baylies on several churches on Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket.

In 1980, the Trust acquired the Church from the Methodist congregation, which continues to use it today. It also serves as the venue for Town Meeting, weddings, lectures, concerts and other civic events.

vineyardtrust.org

Appreciation

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