

Dr. Henry Louis Gates, Jr.

Alphonse Fletcher University Professor, Harvard University
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Henry Louis Gates, Jr., is the Alphonse Fletcher University Professor and the Director of the W. E. B. Du Bois Institute for African and African American Research at Harvard University.

Professor Gates is Editor-in-Chief of the Oxford African American Studies Center, the first comprehensive scholarly online resource in the field of African American Studies and Africana Studies. He is co-editor with K. Anthony Appiah of the encyclopedia *Encarta Africana* published on CD-ROM by Microsoft (1999), and in book form by Basic Civitas Books under the title *Africana: The Encyclopedia of the African and African American Experience* (1999). Oxford University Press published an expanded five-volume edition of the encyclopedia in 2005. He is most recently the author of *Finding Oprah's Roots, Finding Your Own* (Crown, 2007), a meditation on genetics, genealogy, and race. His other recent books are *America Behind the Color Line: Dialogues with African Americans* (Warner Books, 2004), *African American Lives*, co-edited with Evelyn Brooks Higginbotham (Oxford, 2004), and *The Annotated Uncle Tom's Cabin*, edited with Hollis Robbins (W. W. Norton, 2006).

In 2006, Professor Gates wrote and produced the PBS documentary also called "African American Lives," the first documentary series to employ genealogy and science to provide an understanding of African American history. In 2007, a follow-up one-hour documentary, "Oprah's Roots: An African American Lives Special," aired on PBS, further examining the genealogical and genetic heritage of Oprah Winfrey, who had been featured in the original documentary. Professor Gates also wrote and produced the documentaries "Wonders of the African World" (2000) and "America Beyond the Color Line" (2004) for the BBC and PBS, and authored the companion volumes to both series. Professor Gates is currently at work on a four-hour sequel to "African American Lives," which is scheduled to air in February 2008.

Professor Gates is the author of several works of literary criticism, including *Figures in Black: Words, Signs and the "Racial" Self* (Oxford University Press, 1987); and *The Signifying Monkey: A Theory of Afro-American Literary Criticism* (Oxford, 1988), winner of the American Book Award in 1989. He authenticated and facilitated the publication, in 1983, of *Our Nig, or, Sketches from the Life of a Free Black* (1859), by Harriet Wilson, the first novel published by an African American woman. Two decades later, in 2002, Professor Gates authenticated and published *The Bondwoman's Narrative* by Hannah Crafts, dating from the early 1850s and now considered one of the first novels written by an African American woman. He is the co-author, with Cornel West, of *The Future of the Race* (Knopf, 1996), and the author of a memoir, *Colored People* (Knopf, 1994), that traces his childhood experiences in a small West Virginia town in the 1950s and 1960s. Among his other books are *The Trials of Phillis Wheatley: America's First Black Poet and Her Encounters with the Founding Fathers* (Basic Civitas Books, 2003); *Thirteen Ways of Looking at A Black Man* (Random House, 1997); and *Loose Canons: Notes on the Culture Wars* (Oxford 1992). He is completing a book on race and writing in the eighteenth century, entitled "Black Letters and the Enlightenment."

Professor Gates has edited several influential anthologies, including *The Norton Anthology of African American Literature* (W. W. Norton, 1996); and the *Schomburg Library of Nineteenth Century Black Women Writers* (Oxford, 1991). He is the editor of numerous essay collections, including *Reading Black, Reading Feminist: A Critical Anthology* (Meridian, 1990); "Race,"

Writing, and Difference (University of Chicago, 1986); and, with K. Anthony Appiah, volumes on the authors Toni Morrison, Zora Neale Hurston, Richard Wright, and Langston Hughes. In addition, Professor Gates is publisher of *Transition* magazine, an international review of African, Caribbean, and African American politics. An influential cultural critic, Professor Gates's publications include a 1994 cover story for *Time* magazine, numerous articles for the *New Yorker*, and in September 2004, a biweekly guest column in *The New York Times*.

Professor Gates earned his M.A. and Ph.D. in English literature from Clare College at the University of Cambridge, and his B.A. *summa cum laude* in History from Yale University, where he was a Scholar of the House, in 1973. He became a member of Phi Beta Kappa in his junior year at Yale. Before joining the faculty of Harvard in 1991, he taught at Yale, Cornell, and Duke. His honors and grants include a MacArthur Foundation "genius grant" (1981), the George Polk Award for Social Commentary (1993), *Time* magazine's "25 Most Influential Americans" list (1997), a National Humanities Medal (1998), election to the American Academy of Arts and Letters (1999), the Jefferson Lecture (2002), a Visiting Fellowship at the School of Social Science at the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton (2003-2004), and the Jay B. Hubbell Award for Lifetime Achievement in American Literary Studies from the Modern Language Association (2006). He has received 44 honorary degrees, from institutions including the University of Pennsylvania, Dartmouth College, Harvard University, New York University, University of Massachusetts-Boston, Williams College, Emory University, University of Toronto, and the University of Benin, Howard University, University of Vermont, Berea College. In 2006, he was inducted into the Sons of the American Revolution, after he traced his lineage back to John Redman, a Free Negro who fought in the Revolutionary War.

Professor Gates served as Chair of the Department of African and African American Studies at Harvard from 1991 to 2006. He serves on the boards of the New York Public Library, the Whitney Museum, Lincoln Center Theater, Jazz at Lincoln Center, the Aspen Institute, the Brookings Institution, the Studio Museum of Harlem, the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, and the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences at Stanford.

Dr. John Hope Franklin Biography

John Hope Franklin is the James B. Duke Professor Emeritus of History, and for seven years was Professor of Legal History in the Law School at Duke University. He is a native of Oklahoma and a graduate of [Fisk University](#). He received the A.M. and Ph.D. degrees in history from [Harvard University](#). He has taught at a number of institutions, including Fisk University, [St. Augustine's College](#), [North Carolina Central University](#), and [Howard University](#). In 1956 he went to [Brooklyn College](#) as Chairman of the Department of History; and in 1964, he joined the faculty of the [University of Chicago](#), serving as Chairman of the Department of History from 1967 to 1970. At Chicago, he was the John Matthews Manly Distinguished Service Professor from 1969 to 1982, when he became Professor Emeritus.

Professor Franklin's numerous publications include *The Emancipation Proclamation, The Militant South, The Free Negro in North Carolina, Reconstruction After the Civil War*, and *A Southern Odyssey: Travelers in the Ante-bellum North*. Perhaps his best known book is *From Slavery to Freedom: A History of African-Americans*, now in its seventh edition. His Jefferson Lecture in the Humanities for 1976 was published in 1985 and received the Clarence L. Holte Literary Prize for that year. In 1990, a collection of essays covering a teaching and writing career of fifty years, was published under the title, *Race and History: Selected Essays, 1938-1988*. In 1993, he published *The Color Line: Legacy for the Twenty-first Century*. Professor Franklin's most recent book, *My Life and an Era: The Autobiography of Buck Colbert Franklin*, is an autobiography of his father that he edited with his son, John Whittington Franklin. His current research deals with "Dissidents on the Plantation: Runaway Slaves."

Professor Franklin has been active in numerous professional and education organizations. For many years he has served on the editorial board of the *Journal of Negro History*. He has also served as President of the following organizations: The American Studies Association (1967), the Southern Historical Association (1970), the United Chapters of Phi Beta Kappa (1973-76), the Organization of American Historians (1975), and the American Historical Association (1979). He has been a member of the Board of Trustees of Fisk University, the Chicago Public Library, and the Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association.

Professor Franklin has served on many national commissions and delegations, including the National Council on the Humanities, from which he resigned in 1979, when the President appointed him to the Advisory Commission on Public Diplomacy. He has also served on the President's Advisory Commission on Ambassadorial Appointments. In September and October of 1980, he was a United States delegate to the 21st General Conference of UNESCO. Among many other foreign assignments, Dr. Franklin has served as Pitt Professor of American History and Institutions at Cambridge University, Consultant on American Education in the Soviet Union, Fulbright Professor in Australia, and Lecturer in American History in the People's Republic of China. Currently, Professor Franklin serves as chairman of the [advisory board](#) for [One America: The President's Initiative on Race](#).

Professor Franklin has been the recipient of many honors. In 1978, *Who's Who in America* selected Dr. Franklin as one of eight Americans who has made significant contributions to society. In the same year, he was elected to the Oklahoma Hall of Fame. He also received the Jefferson Medal for 1984, awarded by the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education. In 1989, he was the first recipient of the Cleanth Brooks Medal of the Fellowship of Southern Writers, and in 1990 received the Encyclopedia Britannica Gold Medal for the

Dissemination of Knowledge. In 1993, Dr. Franklin received the Charles Frankel Prize for contributions to the humanities, and in 1994, the Cosmos Club Award and the Trumpet Award from Turner Broadcasting Corporation. In 1995, he received the first W.E.B. DuBois Award from the Fisk University Alumni Association, the Organization of American Historians' Award for Outstanding Achievement, the Alpha Phi Alpha Award of Merit, the NAACP's Spingarn Medal, and the Presidential Medal of Freedom. In 1996, Professor Franklin was elected to the Oklahoma Historians Hall of Fame and in 1997 he received the Peggy V. Helmerich Distinguished Author Award. In addition to his many awards, Dr. Franklin has received honorary degrees from more than one hundred colleges and universities.

Professor Franklin has been extensively written about in various articles and books. Most recently he was the subject of the film *First Person Singular: John Hope Franklin*. Produced by Lives and Legacies Films, the documentary was featured on [PBS](#) in June 1997.

