



**WHAT DOES REAL POWER EXCHANGE
LOOK LIKE IN PUBLIC HEALTH?
INSIGHTS FROM THE LIFE AND WORK OF
W. E. B. DU BOIS**

**Arthur McFarlane II
American Public Health Association
November 8, 2010**

THE THOUGHTS AND OPINIONS EXPRESSED IN THIS PRESENTATION ARE SOLELY THOSE OF THE PRESENTER AND DO NOT IN ANY WAY REFLECT THE THOUGHTS, OPINIONS, POSITIONS OR PERSPECTIVES OF THE COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT.



“HE [DU BOIS] VIRTUALLY, BEFORE ANYONE ELSE AND MORE THAN ANYONE ELSE, DEMOLISHED THE LIES ABOUT NEGROES IN THEIR MOST IMPORTANT AND CREATIVE PERIODS OF HISTORY. THE TRUTHS HE REVEALED ARE NOT YET THE PROPERTY OF ALL AMERICANS BUT THEY HAVE BEEN RECORDED AND THEY ARM US FOR OUR CONTEMPORARY BATTLES”

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. (1970)



THE *PHILADELPHIA NEGRO* MURAL



Courtesy of the City of Philadelphia Mural Arts Program, the University of Pennsylvania and the Mapping Du Bois Project



“NEGROES NOW PAY ABNORMALLY HIGH RENTS FOR THE POOREST ACCOMMODATIONS, AND RACE-PREJUDICE ACCENTUATES THIS DIFFICULTY, OUT OF WHICH MANY EVILS GROW.”

W. E. B. DU BOIS

FROM *THE PHILADELPHIA NEGRO* (1899)



PHILADELPHIA 7TH WARD CIRCA 1900



Courtesy of Temple University, Urban Archives, Octavia Hill Association photo



THEN AND NOW

The Philadelphia Negro

- Low economic and social status
- Education
- Leadership
- Living conditions
- The Black Church
- Employment

Social Determinants of Health

- Neighborhood economic conditions
- Health Services
- Community leadership
- Built Environment
- Community and public support services
- Employment, Income Wealth and Assets



W. E. B. DU BOIS - 1903



Courtesy of the University of Massachusetts at Amherst



“THE PROBLEM OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY IS THE
PROBLEM OF THE COLOR-LINE”

W. E. B. DU BOIS

FROM *THE SOULS OF BLACK FOLK* (1903)



PUBLIC HEALTH TODAY



CRITICAL ISSUES BETWEEN PUBLIC HEALTH AND COMMUNITIES OF COLOR

- Tokenism
- Trust
- Solutions
- Norms
- Stress
- Power
- Racism
- Prejudice
- Stereotyping
- Scapegoating
- Racial
Microaggressions
- Aversive racism



WHAT TO DO

- Institutional leadership
- Power sharing
- True empowerment
- Marriage of EBPH and community innovation
- The new radicalism – Africana Studies



CLOSING THOUGHTS



TODAH RABAH

- The Spirit of 1848 Caucus
- Colorado Reviewers
- The Prevention Services Division at the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment
- Dr. Reiland Rabaka – University of Colorado
- Dr. Amy Hillier – University of Pennsylvania
- The University of Massachusetts at Amherst



REFERENCES

- The Suppression of the African Slave Trade – Du Bois (1896)
- The Philadelphia Negro – Du Bois (1899)
- The Souls of Black Folk – Du Bois (1903)
- The Autobiography of W. E. B. Du Bois – (1968)
- Du Bois: A Pictorial Biography – Shirley Graham Du Bois (1978)
- W. E. B. Du Bois: Biography of a Race, 1868-1919 – David Levering Lewis (1993)
- W. E. B. Du Bois: The fight for equality and the American century, 1919-1963 – David Levering Lewis (2001)



REFERENCES

- W.E.B. Du Bois and the Problems of the Twenty-First Century: An Essay on Africana Critical Theory – Reiland Rebaka (2010)
- Sue, D. W., Capodilupo, C., Torino, G., Bucceri, J., Holder, A., Nadal, K., & Esquilin, M. (2007). Racial Microaggressions in Everyday Life. *American Psychologist*, 62, 271-286.
- Dovidio, J. F. & Gaertner, S. L. (2004) Aversive Racism. In M. P. Zanna (Ed.), *Advances in experimental social psychology* (Vol. 36, pp. 1-51). San Diego, CA: Academic Press
- Robbins, J. M., & Webb, D. A. (2004). Neighborhood Poverty, Mortality Rates, and Excess Deaths Among African Americans: Philadelphia 1999-2001. *Journal of Health Care for the Poor and Underserved*, 15, 530-537.



“IT IS A PECULIAR SENSATION, THIS DOUBLE-CONSCIOUSNESS, THIS SENSE OF ALWAYS LOOKING AT ONE’S SELF THROUGH THE EYES OF OTHERS, OF MEASURING ONE’S SOUL BY THE TAPE OF A WORLD THAT LOOKS ON IN AMUSED CONTEMPT AND PITY. ONE EVER FEELS HIS TWO-NESS, - AN AMERICAN, A NEGRO; TWO SOULS, TWO THOUGHTS, TWO UNRECONCILED STRIVINGS; TWO WARRING IDEALS IN ONE DARK BODY, WHOSE DOGGED STRENGTH ALONE KEEPS IT FROM BEING TORN ASUNDER.”

W. E. B. DU BOIS

FROM *THE SOULS OF BLACK FOLK* (1903)

