

Patricia Williams

I plan to speak about the role of discourse. My entry into the world of critical theory really began with the conversations I had with Peter Gabel while we were both teaching contracts at CUNY Law School; we talked and talked and talked, about rights discourse and needs discourse, about market structures of efficiency and the patient metrics of due process. My thoughts became the foundation for my first book, *The Alchemy of Race and Rights*. I remain influenced by those discussions to this day, and during my talk at Princeton will try to update my sense of their relevance in a world in which legal forms of discourse are expanded, diminished, challenged and increasingly displaced by visual culture and the semiotics of numeracy and data technology. Recent articles/columns/op-eds on this and other topics may be found on my website: <https://madlawprofessor.wordpress.com>.