

# Karida L. Brown and Scott R. Stroud in Conversation: Pragmatism, Critical Social Theory, and The Alternative Trajectories of W.E.B Du Bois and B.R. Ambedkar

A BSA Theory Study Group Event

4 April 2023 (16:00–17:30)  
Online\*

## About the Event

Karida L. Brown, co-author of *The Sociology of W.E.B. Du Bois: Racialized Modernity and the Global Color Line* (2020, NYU Press), and Scott R. Stroud, author of *The Evolution of Pragmatism: Ambedkar, Dewey, and the Rhetoric of Reconstruction* (2023, Chicago University Press), will join us for a discussion that aims at connecting the intellectual and political trajectories of W.E.B. Du Bois and B.R. Ambedkar with different appropriations of American Pragmatism for the prospects of a critical social theory.

As contemporaries that began their intellectual trajectories at Harvard and Columbia, they encountered pragmatism first-hand through their teachers William James and John Dewey, respectively. The prospects of pragmatism for a critical social theory came to attention later on through the interventions of Jürgen Habermas and the subsequent generations of the Frankfurt School. These paths are now well-trodden, but the alternative trajectories opened before by Du Bois and Ambedkar remain largely underexplored.

Particular to their approaches is the centrality of the question of race and caste in their critique of modern societies and visions of democracy, which leads towards a particular appropriation and criticism of pragmatist tenets. It is only in the last few decades that their work has acquired significant status within academic communities.

The purpose of this discussion is to engage with and develop some understanding of the historical implications of their writings, particularly relating to pragmatism and critical social theory.

## Registration Fees

- BSA Member: £0
- Non-Member: £15
- Non-Member Concessionary: £10

\*As this is an online event, the link to attend via zoom will be circulated with final delegate information no earlier than 24 hours before the start of the event.