

# REVISITING DU BOIS AND 'THE PROPAGANDA OF HISTORY'

**JAMELLE BOUIE**

NEW YORK TIMES COLUMNIST

THE 32<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL DAVIS, MARKERT,  
NICKERSON LECTURE ON ACADEMIC  
AND INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2023

4-5:30 PM

HONIGMAN AUDITORIUM

625 S. STATE STREET

EMAIL: [facultysenateoffice@umich.edu](mailto:facultysenateoffice@umich.edu)



**FACULTY SENATE**  
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN



# Statement on Freedom of Speech and Artistic Expression

**T**hank you for attending this program. The University of Michigan strives to create a truly open forum, one in which diverse opinions can be expressed and heard.

It is the right of the members of the University community, speakers, artists, and other invited guests to express their views and opinions at the University. We will protect the right of individuals to speak or perform, and the rights of those members of the University community who wish to hear and communicate with an invited speaker or artist.

Protesters also have a right to express their opposition to a speaker in appropriate ways, both within the confines of this building and outside the facility. However, protesters must not interfere unduly with communication between a speaker or artist and members of the audience.

If the hosts of this event or University representatives believe that protesters are interfering unduly with a speaker or performer's freedom of expression, those protesters will be warned. If the warnings are not heeded and the interference continues, then the individuals responsible may be removed from the building.

We reaffirm these policies in order to most fully protect the rights of free expression for speakers, and protesters alike, in accordance with the Standard Practice Guide 601.01: Freedom of Speech and Artistic Expression.

# Statement on Academic Freedom

Academic freedom is the liberty that faculty members must have if they are to practice their scholarly profession in accordance with the norms of that profession. Academic freedom is not a term or a condition of employment; rather, it is based in the institutional structure of this and other universities and is fundamental to their common mission of promoting inquiry and advancing the sum of human knowledge and understanding. Although some aspects of academic freedom are also protected by the First Amendment to the United States Constitution, academic freedom exists, independent of any external protection, as a basic prerequisite for universities to fulfill their mission to our society.

Academic freedom is most commonly vindicated by individual faculty members, but remains first and foremost a professional prerequisite of faculty members as a group.

Adopted by the Senate Assembly on Behalf of the Faculty Senate - January 25, 2010.  
Read the full statement at [https://facultysenate.umich.edu/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/01-25-10\\_Academic-Freedom.pdf](https://facultysenate.umich.edu/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/01-25-10_Academic-Freedom.pdf).

# **Introductory Remarks**

## **Allen Liu**

Chair, Faculty Senate  
Associate Professor of Mechanical Engineering

## **Laurie McCauley**

Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs  
William K and Mary Anne Najjar Professor of Periodontics

## **Rebecca Scott**

Charles Gibson Distinguished University Professor of History

## **Silke Weineck**

Grace Lee Boggs Collegiate Professor of Comparative Literature and German Studies

---

## **Lecture**

## **Jamelle Bouie**

New York Times Columnist and CBS News Political Analyst

## **Revisiting Du Bois and “The Propaganda of History”**



## Jamelle Bouie

Based in Charlottesville, Virginia and Washington D.C., Jamelle Bouie is a columnist for the *New York Times* and political analyst for CBS News. He covers history and politics.

Prior to the *Times*, Jamelle was chief political correspondent for *Slate* magazine. And before that, he was a staff writer at *The Daily Beast* and held fellowships at *The American Prospect* and *The Nation* magazine. He attended the University of Virginia, where he graduated with a degree in political and social thought, and government.

Jamelle is also a photographer, documenting his surroundings using digital and analog tools.

## **SENATE ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION: ADOPTED NOVEMBER 19, 1990**

The faculty of the University of Michigan affirms that academic and intellectual freedom are fundamental values for a university in a free society. They form the foundation of the rights of free inquiry, free expression and free dissent that are necessary for the life of the university. The faculty recognizes that such rights are human creations, the product of both the reasoned actions and the deep-seated commitments of women and men. When such actions and commitments are set in human institutions, people may secure for themselves and for others, in the present and the future, the enjoyment of those rights.

We also recognize that these values and the rights they imply are vulnerable to the fads, fashions, social movements and mass fears that threaten to still dissent and to censure carriers of unpopular ideas. Such was the case in 1954 when the University of Michigan suspended three faculty members and subsequently dismissed two of them. We deeply regret the failure of the University community to protect the fundamental values of intellectual freedom at that time. It is to guard against a repetition of those events and to protect the fundamental freedoms of those who come after us that we make this resolution today.

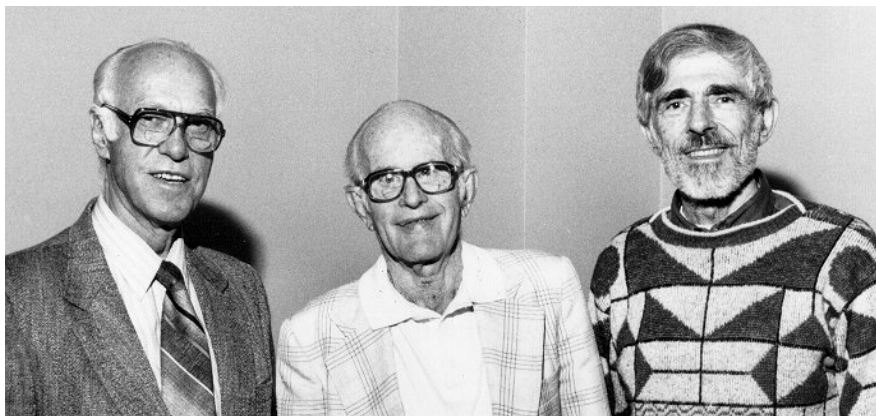
The protection of academic and intellectual freedoms requires a constant reminder of their value and vulnerability. To provide for that reminder, the faculty of the University of Michigan hereby resolves to establish an Annual Senate Lecture on Academic and on Intellectual Freedom, to be named: The University of Michigan Senate's Davis, Markert, Nickerson Lecture on Academic and Intellectual Freedom.

## **In Honor of Chandler Davis, Clement Markert, and Mark Nickerson**

In 1954 the University of Michigan suspended three faculty members for their refusal to give testimony to the U.S. House Committee on Un-American Activities. Professors H. Chandler Davis (mathematics) and Mark Nickerson (pharmacology) were fired. The third faculty member, Clement Markert (biology), was retained but censured, and left the university soon afterwards. National AAUP censured the University for these terminations in 1957; censure was removed in 1958 after a new Regents' Bylaw 5.09 on the "Procedures in cases of Dismissal, Demotion, or Terminal Appointment" was adopted.

The University of Michigan Chapter of the AAUP contacted various University officials to encourage the Regents to take appropriate action to clear the faculty members' names. A proposal was sent to the Senate Advisory Committee on University Affairs in October 1989, and endorsed in February 1990.

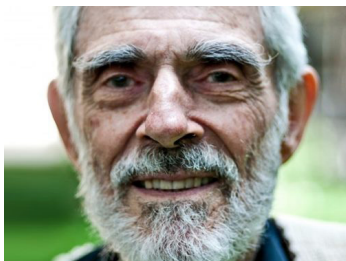
When it became clear that the Regents would not take action, the Senate Assembly in November, 1990, passed a resolution that deeply regretted "the failure of the University Community to protect the values of intellectual freedom" in 1954, and established the annual University of Michigan Senate Davis, Markert, Nickerson Lecture on Academic and Intellectual Freedom.



## H. CHANDLER DAVIS

1926-2022

H. Chandler Davis was well known as a science-fiction author in his youth. At the same time he was a mathematics student at Harvard, earning a Ph.D. in 1950.



He was an instructor at the University of Michigan, 1950-1954. In 1962, he achieved tenure at the University of Toronto. He was Vice-President of the American Mathematical Society (1991-1994). He also served as an editor of *The Mathematical Intelligencer*.

Professor Davis's scientific pursuits took him on many travels to Poland during the martial law of 1982; to both the USA and the Democratic Republic of Vietnam while those countries were at war; to China during the Cultural Revolution; to both Israel and the occupied West Bank. Often along with the scientific work he was able to stand up for free speech of scientists (some of whose speech he does not at all endorse).

In 1954, while an instructor at the University of Michigan, Chandler Davis was called to testify before the House Committee on Un-American Activities. His fellows on the stand in Lansing were his colleagues Mark Nickerson and Clement L. Markert, and his student friends Edward Shaffer and Myron E. Sharpe. All were "unfriendly witnesses, refusing to confess" their political dissent. Davis, unlike the others, based his refusal to answer only on the First Amendment, waiving his protection under the Fifth Amendment. Thereby he deliberately invited a citation for Contempt of Congress, so as to give him standing to argue in court that the Committee's proceedings were unconstitutional. He got the citation, all right, but he did not prevail in court; his appeals were exhausted in 1959 and he served prison time in 1960. Meanwhile, he and Professor Nickerson had been dismissed from their positions at the University. This action of the University administration drew censure from the American Association of University Professors.

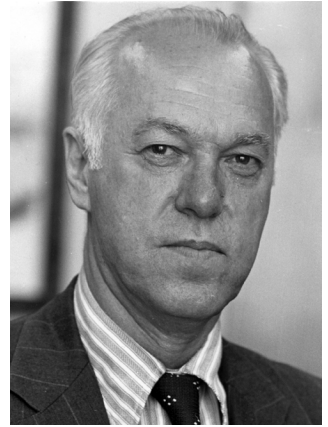
He wrote about those days in "The Purge" (*A Century of Mathematics in America*, American Mathematical Society, 1989). A selection of his prose writings, not including his mathematics but including some science-fiction is *It Walks in Beauty* (ed. J. Lukin, Aqueduct Press, 2010).



# CLEMENT L. MARKERT

1917-1999

Clement L. Markert was Professor of Biology at Johns Hopkins University (1957-1965), the Henry Ford II Professor of Biology and Chair of the Department of Biology at Yale University (1965-1986) and Distinguished University Research Professor of Animal Science and Genetics at North Carolina State University (1986-1993).



His research interests were focused on developmental genetics, reproductive biology, and biotechnology. He was a member of the National Academy of Sciences and served as co-chair of the Developmental Biology Interdisciplinary Cluster for President Ford's Biomedical Research Panel in 1975. Professor Markert was elected to the Presidency of the American Institute of Biological Sciences, the American Society of Zoologists, the Society for Developmental Biology, and the American Genetics Association.

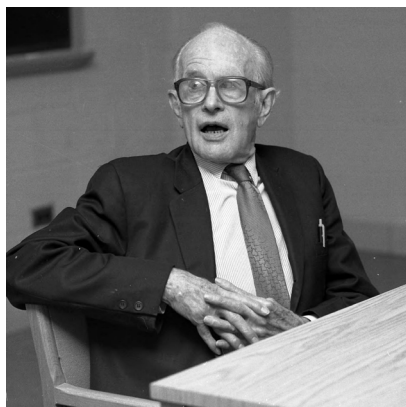
Markert began his academic career as an assistant professor of zoology at the University of Michigan in 1950 after earning his bachelor's degree from the University of Colorado, his M.A. from the University of California at Los Angeles and his doctorate from Johns Hopkins University. He died on October 1, 1999, in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

In 1954, Clement Markert was called to testify before the House Un-American Activities Committee. He invoked Constitutional rights according to the Fifth Amendment and refused to answer the Committee's questions concerning his political associations. Consequently, he was suspended from the University of Michigan. He was later reinstated with the support of the Faculty Senate, his department and his college, and he eventually achieved tenure.

# MARK NICKERSON

1916-1998

Professor Nickerson made major contributions to the field of pharmacology, in part through his seminal research on the adrenergic blocking drugs that are used to treat high blood pressure and other major medical disorders.



He was awarded the John Jacob Abel Award in Pharmacology in 1949 and served as president both of the Pharmacological Society of Canada and of the American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics. He chaired the Canadian Federation of Biological Sciences and was the author of more than 250 scientific publications.

In 1954, Mark Nickerson was an associate professor of pharmacology at the University of Michigan, with tenure. He was called to testify before the House Un-American Activities Committee and chose to invoke the Fifth Amendment in response to the Committee's questions.

He was immediately suspended by the University as a result. Professor Nickerson's reinstatement was supported by the Faculty Senate but not by his departmental chairman or by the dean and the executive committee of the Medical School. He was subsequently dismissed from the University despite his tenured appointment.

Mark Nickerson was born on October 22, 1916, in Montevideo, Minnesota. He graduated summa cum laude from Linfield College, earned his Sc.M. from Brown University, his Ph.D. from Johns Hopkins University and an M.D. from the University of Utah. Nickerson married Elizabeth Ilene Smith (Betty). They had three children, Steven Paul, Michael Thomas and daughter, Marki.

# PAST LECTURES

## Davis, Markert, Nickerson

<b>1991</b> <b>Robert M. O'Neil</b> Professor of Law and Founding Director Thomas Jefferson Center for the Protection of Free Expression University of Virginia  "Inaugural Lecture"	<b>1995</b> <b>Linda Ray Pratt</b> Professor of English University of Nebraska-Lincoln and Past-President, AAUP  "Academic Freedom and the Merits of Uncertainty"	<b>1999</b> <b>David A. Hollinger</b> Chancellor's Professor of History University of California at Berkeley  "Universities and Cosmopolitanism"
<b>1992</b> <b>Lee C. Bollinger</b> Dean and Professor of Law University of Michigan Law School  "The Open-Minded Soldier and the University"	<b>1996</b> <b>Avern Cohn</b> United States District Judge Eastern District of Michigan  "Academic Freedom: A Trial Judge's View"	<b>2000</b> <b>Anthony Lewis</b> Journalist, <i>The New York Times</i> James Madison Visiting Professor Columbia University  "Freedom: The Seamless Web"
<b>1993</b> <b>Catharine R. Stimpson</b> University Professor and Dean of the Graduate School Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey  "Dirty Minds, Dirty Bodies, Clean Speech"	<b>1997</b> <b>Roger Wood Wilkins</b> Clarence J. Robinson Professor of History and American Culture George Mason University  "Opportunity and Academic Integrity"	<b>2001</b> <b>Vartan Gregorian</b> President Carnegie Corporation of New York  "Universities in the 21st Century: Perils, Challenges, and Prospects"
<b>1994</b> <b>Walter P. Metzger</b> Emeritus Professor of History Columbia University  "A Walk Along the New Frontiers of Academic Freedom"	<b>1998</b> <b>Eugene L. Roberts, Jr.</b> Professor of Journalism University of Maryland-College Park  "Free Speech, Free Press: Free Society"	<b>2002</b> <b>Catharine A. MacKinnon</b> Elizabeth A. Long Professor of Law University of Michigan Law School  "From Powerlessness to Power: The Uses of Academic Freedom"

<p><b>2003</b></p> <p><b>David D. Cole</b> Professor of Law Georgetown University Law Center</p> <p>“Freedom and Terror: September 11th and the 21st Century Challenge”</p>	<p><b>2007</b></p> <p><b>Nadine Strossen</b> Professor of Law New York Law School President of the American Civil Liberties Union</p> <p>“Defending Freedom: Even for the Thoughts We Hate!”</p>	<p><b>2011</b></p> <p><b>Ellen W. Schrecker</b> Professor of History Yeshiva University</p> <p>“The Lost Soul of Higher Education”</p>
<p><b>2004</b></p> <p><b>Noam Chomsky</b> Professor of Linguistics and Philosophy Massachusetts Institute of Technology</p> <p>“Illegal but Legitimate: A Dubious Doctrine for the Times”</p>	<p><b>2008</b></p> <p><b>Cass R. Sunstein</b> Felix Frankfurter Professor of Law Harvard Law School</p> <p>“My University.com, My Government.com: Is the Internet Really a Blessing for Democracy?”</p>	<p><b>2012</b></p> <p><b>Robert C. Post</b> Dean and Sol &amp; Lillian Goldman Professor of Law Yale Law School</p> <p>“The Constitutional Meaning of Academic Freedom”</p>
<p><b>2005</b></p> <p><b>Floyd Abrams</b> Walter J. Brennan, Jr. Visiting Professor of First Amendment Law Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism Partner, Cahill Gordon &amp; Reindel</p> <p>“Whose Academic Freedom?”</p>	<p><b>2009</b></p> <p><b>Philip Hamburger</b> Maurice &amp; Hilda Friedman Professor of Law , Columbia University School of Law</p> <p>“Galileo’s Ghost: Seventeenth-Century Censorship in Twenty-First-Century America”</p>	<p><b>2013</b></p> <p><b>Marjorie Heins</b> Founding Director of the Free Expression Policy Project</p> <p>“Priests of Our Democracy: The Supreme Court, Academic Freedom and the Anti-Communist Purge”</p>
<p><b>2006</b></p> <p><b>Bill Keller</b> Executive Editor The New York Times</p> <p>“Editors in Chains: Secrets, Security and the Press”</p>	<p><b>2010</b></p> <p><b>Michael A. Olivas</b> William B. Bates Distinguished Chair in Law University of Houston Law Center</p> <p>“God, Grades, and Sex: The Developing Law of the College Classroom”</p>	<p><b>2014</b></p> <p><b>Douglas Laycock</b> Robert E. Scott Distinguished Professor of Law and Professor of Religious Studies University of Virginia School of Law</p> <p>“Religious Liberty and the Culture Wars”</p>

<p><b>2015</b></p> <p><b>Natalie Zemon</b> Davis Henry &amp; Charles Lea Professor of History Emerita Princeton University Adjunct Professor of History and Medieval Studies Senior Fellow in the Centre for Comparative Literature University of Toronto</p>	<p><b>2017</b></p> <p><b>Michael Mann</b> Distinguished Professor of Atmospheric Science Pennsylvania State University</p> <p>“The Madhouse Effect: Climate Change Denial in the Age of Trump”</p>	<p><b>Susan Benesch</b> Faculty Associate Harvard University Adjunct Professor American University Director, Dangerous Speech Project</p>
<p>“Experiencing Exclusion: Scholarship in the Wake of Inquisition”</p> <p><b>Joan Wallach Scott</b> Professor Emerita School of Social Science Institute for Advanced Study Adjunct Professor of History Graduate Center City University of New York</p>	<p><b>2018</b></p> <p><b>Gene Nicol</b> Boyd Tinsley Distinguished Professor University of North Carolina</p> <p>“Academic Freedom: New Politics, Old School Censorship and Meaningful Constitutional Review”</p> <p><b>2019</b></p> <p><b>Hank F. Reichman</b> Chair of AAUP Committee on Academic Freedom and Tenure Professor Emeritus of History, California State University—East Bay</p>	<p><b>Michael Bérubé</b> Edwin Erle Sparks Professor of Literature Pennsylvania State University</p> <p><b>Melanie Tanielian</b> Associate Professor History, University of Michigan</p> <p>Panel Discussion: “Challenges to Academic Freedom in a Changing Landscape, at Home and Abroad”</p>
<p>“Civility and Academic Freedom”</p> <p><b>2016</b></p> <p><b>Marc Rotenberg</b> President and CEO Electronic Privacy Information Center Professor of Law Georgetown Law</p>	<p>“Do Adjuncts Have Academic Freedom? Why Tenure Matters”</p> <p><b>2020</b></p> <p><b>Nadje S. Al-Ali</b> Robert Family Professor of International Studies Professor of Anthropology and Middle East Studies Brown University</p>	<p><b>2022</b></p> <p><b>Jamelle Bouie</b> Columnist New York Times Political Analyst CBS News</p> <p>“Revisiting Du Bois and ‘The Propaganda of History’”</p>

# **Davis, Markert, Nickerson Lecture on Academic Freedom Committee 2022-2023**

Stefan Szymanski, Chair

Samer Ali

Michael Atzmon

John Cheney-Lippold

Judy Haefner

Holly Hughes

Gary Krenz

Victoria Langland

Nick Tobier

Suleyman Uludag





## **Hosted by:**

Allen Liu, Chair

Tom Braun, Vice Chair

Deirdre Spencer, Senate Secretary

Lindsay Admon

Simon Cushing

Rebekah Modrak

Damani Partridge

Silvia Pedraza

Kentaro Toyama

Sergio Villalobos-Ruminott

## **Cover Design by:**

Rebekah Modrak, Professor

Penny W. Stamps School of Art & Design