



Department of Sociology, Anthropology and Media Studies

Lecture Series 2018-2019

The Making and Unmaking of Social Worlds

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“W.E.B. Du Bois at the Center: From Science, Civil Rights Movement to Black Lives Matter”

By **ALDON MORRIS**

Wednesday, November 7, 2018 | 5:00 p.m. | Auditorium B, West Hall, AUB

W.E.B. Du Bois was one of a handful of scholars of the 20th century with a sustained global impact on sociological, literary, and political knowledge. In this talk, Prof. Morris will draw on evidence from his recent multiple award-winning book, *The Scholar Denied: W. E. B. Du Bois and The Birth of Modern Sociology* (University of California Press, 2015) to demonstrate that Du Bois founded American scientific sociology in a segregated black university. This disconfirms the accepted wisdom that American scientific sociology was founded solely by white sociologists in elite white universities.

The talk explores the methods Du Bois pioneered and his novel theorizing that laid the foundations for subsequent sociological analyses. It offers an account of the dynamic forces that generate scientific schools of thought and that undergirded knowledge production in social science during Du Bois' era.

The talk will also explore the relevance of activism for modern social science more broadly.

Aldon Morris is the Leon Forrest Professor of Sociology and African American Studies at Northwestern University. His last book *The Scholar Denied* has had a major impact on North American and international sociology and the social sciences more broadly. In addition to his scholarship on W.E.B. Du Bois, Morris continues to work on the black civil rights movements and collective action in the US.