## 1AC – Doubles NDT

### 1AC

#### After the end of two years, this is the last tournament ever for Michigan HM as a partnership. In our two years as partners, we have seen a whole hell of a lot of changes from what we knew before we started this journey---debating on camera over zoom, operating as a partnership while 700 miles apart for an entire season, spreading in masks, just to name a few. I mean, even within the intricacies of these debate rounds themselves we have experiences a lot of changes---reading a Philippines aff with overmatch impacts while going one off afropessimism on the neg, or reading affs about black transhumanism and the deterrence DA on the neg, or experimenting with every corner of critical race studies from Black Buddhism to Black Bataille to Black Cybernetics this year---shit, if anything it’s made filling out prefs sheets near-impossible.

#### But, within that history as a partnership, we’ve also had our fair share of roadblocks---last year, we talked about the racial effects of zoom debate on black voices, making it literally more difficult to understand black debaters compared to whites--this year, we tried to be a little less meta, but it didn’t help the racial effects of online debate---from being called racial slurs reminiscent of the Jim Crow era by other teams we thought were on our side to being mocked for our arguments because they were not Bataille, but Black Bataille. We never said anything, and still won’t, about those instances because that’s not why we do this. We’re here to learn, explore, and uncover new areas of the library, but everyone feels the need to keep reminding us that this is just a game, and telling us how we play the game means nothing.

#### Putting aside online debate, or even what people might say when they think they are muted on zoom, there is still one thing that we have seen every round this year and for every year since I started debate back in 2015---the misreading and misapplication of black scholarship as an argumentative grammar. Whether it’s reading afrofuturism to answer afropessimism, or the reading of radical black authors in the 2AC while defending US hegemony for 9 minutes in the 1AC. Debaters, particularly those looking to defend their state-centric scenario planning, have become adept at “repurposing” and taking out of context the field of black scholarship.

#### There is no better example of this in debate than Lewis Gordon, a phenomenological black existentialist who has become famous in our activity for saying there is a difference between “An Antiblack World” and “The Antiblack World”---though this claim is mediated in his work by broader claims about what blackness means or how the world actually negatively impacts black people, all people in this activity care about is that he 1) talks about Frank Wilderson and 2) vaguely disagrees with the endpoint of Afropess---for them, that’s enough to call it consistent with their rational for state-centered politics and move on to cutting FTC updates---

#### Yet, that method for maximizing consistency, where all things must have rational responses regardless of their effects, reproduces disciplinary decadence, where all arguments and evidence must be homogenized under the state-centric methodology at the expense of ethics---after all, we MUST have some stasis point, right?

Gordon, 14 – Lewis R. Gordon, Professor of Philisophy, African and Judaic studies, University of Connecticut; 2014(“Disciplinary Decadence and the Decolonisation of Knowledge,” Africa Development Vol. 39, No. 1, 2014, Available Online to Subscribing Institutions at <https://www.jstor.org/stable/24484677>, bam)

The subsequent unfolding story is familiar to most of us who study colonisation. Along

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approaches, even in the name of liberation, face a similar fate.

#### Those forms of stasis and “debate” devoid of ethics seek to define that was never definable, contingent, nor possible into a consistent, unwavering presupposition, regulating life via competition and recreating the very antiblackness they try to tear apart with black scholarship

Kelsie, 19 – Amber E. Kelsie, Associate Debate Coach at Wake Forest University and Assistant Professor of the Practice at Wake Forest University; 2019(“Blackened Debate at the End of the World,” Philosophy & Rhetoric Vol. 52, No. 1, 2019, Available to Subscribing Institutions via ProjectMUSE Online at muse.jhu.edu/article/721920, bam)

We are haunted by the specter of civil war. Liberal and conservative politicians and

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through a disavowal of the contingency of debate's outside that is rendered impossible.

#### While I have talked this far in generalizations, this effect is not isolated nor is it a caricature of “policy” vs. “kritikal” debaters: Dartmouth themselves have engaged in these misrepresentations as well, starting with Gordon’s claims we have isolated above---the screenshot is inserted below, but these forms of misrepresentation deny the work of black scholars to actually advance claims in the field of critical race studies, instead homogenizing their understanding of anti-blackness into the yes/no question of “progress possible” or “progress impossible”

Graphical user interface, text, application

Description automatically generated

[Available for download at https://opencaselist.paperlessdebate.com/download/Dartmouth/Shankar-Vergho%20Aff/Dartmouth-Shankar-Vergho-Aff-1%20-%20Northwestern-Doubles.docx?rev=1.1]

#### But, it does reflect the long-standing deterioration of the activity as a “research” activity, with debates becoming overly shallow, incoherent, and reliant on the same outdated questions that have plagued the activity for decades

Hester, 13 – Mike Hester, Debate Coach at West Georgia University; 2013(“Letter from a Maryland Comfort Inn,” CEDA Forums, 11-13-2013, Available Online at <http://156.26.181.164/forum/index.php/topic,5407.0.html?PHPSESSID=643893f4cb48f8eb96e1d3e5e1a42426>, bam) \*given how often the server seems to change for the CEDA forums, this post is also available at <http://globaldebateblog.blogspot.com/2013/11/mike-hester-usa-policy-debate-in-hot.html>

To whom it may concern,   
CEDA-NDT Debate is a hot mess

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how do we keep it going in the ways that fulfill those needs.

#### While some things in this influential CEDA post have been addressed and resolved, most of that has been done at the administrative realm---but, the fact that conversations about our research practices in a “research” activity are still relevant 8 years later shows we have a long way to go---fuck, CSU Fullerton has been winning debates for over a year on the fact that people are blatantly misrepresenting evidence. Yet, when it comes to the actual applicability of evidence itself, its still enough to claim “spin” and get away with egregiously out of context evidence, something that even Hester didn’t address.

#### Thus, Michigan HM challenges college policy debate’s evidence practices regarding black scholarship. While the first step is addressing the types of research we actually do in debate, that is only a starting point for changing the academic practice of how debate operates within the academy---

Reid-Brinkley, 12 – Dr. Shanara Reid-Brinkley, Co-Director of CSU Fullerton Forensics and College of Communications professor, Ph.D; interviewed by Scott Odekirk; 2012(“The Dr. Shanara Reid-Brinkley Interview,” PuttingTheKInDebate, 04-08-2012, Available Online from <https://puttingthekindebate.wordpress.com/2012/04/02/the-dr-shanara-reid-brinkley/>, bam)

Odekirk: What do you think, if you had an idea, if you

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what, that’s how you write a [ed] academic paper now.

#### The role of the ballot in this debate is to vote for the team that provides the best response to grievances about evidence misrepresentation of black scholars in debate. The role of the negative is to rejoin the 1AC as a call for submissions to address the problem of misrepresentation of black scholarship in debate

Regnier, 12 – Jason Regnier, Debate Coach at Gonzaga University; 2012(“Re: Information wants to be free, or how I learned to stop worrying and love edebate,” CEDA Forums, 11-14-2012, Available Online from <http://156.26.181.164/forum/index.php/topic,4149.15.html?PHPSESSID=643893f4cb48f8eb96e1d3e5e1a42426>, bam) \*given how often the server seems to change for the CEDA forums, this link might be broken if you are looking for this in future years. The pathname for this thread is College Policy Debate Forum » DISCUSSION » Open Topic -- Any issue » Information wants to be free, or how I learned to stop worrying and love edebate (on the 7th page when I accessed this in Spring 2022)

Here's what seems pretty clear to me:

1. Grievances about diversity in

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us occupying privileged positions have the obligation to raise the stakes on ourselves.