



# THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

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## **Assistant Professor Tianna Paschel to Join the Department of Political Science**

The University of Chicago Department of Political Science is delighted to announce that Tianna Paschel will be joining the department in July 2011.

Tianna Paschel is the most promising young scholar in comparative race politics today in the disciplines of political science and sociology. Her research examines the role that black social movements have played in the recent shift from colorblind state discourses to the adoption of ethno-racial policies in Colombia and Brazil in the 1990s. Tianna Paschel comes to us from the Sociology Department at the University of California at Berkeley, where she is completing her dissertation titled *States, Movements and the New Politics of Blackness in Colombia and Brazil*. It draws on 18 months of ethnographic fieldwork, including over a hundred in-depth interviews, participation in a wide range of events, and extensive analyses of government documents.

Tianna Paschel makes several major contributions that will have critical and lasting impact in political science, sociology, and the study of race. By focusing on two Latin American countries, her research is a call to move beyond the archetypical case of the United States, and instead analyze how common histories of racial domination and slavery can produce distinct racial politics. In so doing, she also shows that while there has been a general shift toward the politicization of ethno-racial identities throughout this region, there are many important differences between countries. Tianna's work also intervenes in the social movement literature by demonstrating how various approaches to the study of social movements (framing, political process theory, and transnational approaches) are collectively necessary for explaining the development of black social movements in Colombia and Brazil. Also, by analyzing how black movement actors negotiate, inhabit and contest the newly formed structures of political representation set up for black populations, Tianna reveals a reality of social movement institutionalization that is much more complex than the literature suggests.

Tianna Paschel is the recipient of numerous awards and fellowships, including Fulbright, Mellon and Ford. Her article "The Right to Difference: Explaining Colombia's Shift from Color-Blindness to the Law of Black Communities" is forthcoming in the *American Journal of Sociology*. She will be in residence as a fellow in July 2011 and will begin as Neubauer Family Assistant Professor in July 2012.