Where I Come From: Reflections of a Scholar-Activist

Paul Spickard is a leading scholar of racial theory and an anti-racism activist. Distinguished Professor of History at the University of California, Santa Barbara, he is also an affiliate faculty member there in Asian American Studies, Black Studies, Chicana/o Studies, East Asian Cultural Studies, Middle Eastern Studies, and Religious Studies. He has held teaching and research positions at fourteen other universities in North America, Europe, Asia, and Oceania, including the Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität Münster.


Spickard has also been an anti-racist activist since his school days (a very long time ago). He will describe his journey as an over-educated, over-privileged White male who nonetheless chose early on to make the antiracist struggle his life’s work. He will recount some of his personal history and challenge his audience to think about their values and what they might do to make a difference with their lives.