

BIOGRAPHY

Aaron David Gresson III was born in Norfolk, Virginia. He attended segregated public schools in both Norfolk and Baltimore, MD and graduated from the private catholic high school, Calvert Hall College, where he first studied with white teachers and students. After briefly studying for the priesthood at Resurrection College Seminary in Kitchener, Ontario, he completed his undergraduate education at the University of Waterloo. After studying sociology with Gerald De Gre and H.D. Kirk, anthropology with the late Sally Weaver, and psychology with Donald Meichenbaum, Gresson earned his M.A. in school psychology at the University of Toronto. Influenced by several imminent scholars, including Alfredo Castaneda, Aaron Wolfgang, and Otto Weininger, Gresson began developing the interdisciplinary perspective that has characterized both his teaching and research for over three decades.

During the first decade after completing his degree at Toronto, Gresson held several positions in education, administration, and school services. During an NIMH postdoctoral fellowship at the new Hershey Medical Center in Pennsylvania, his interests expanded to include gerontology and alcoholism in special populations.

In the early 1980s, Gresson joined the faculty at Brandeis University and became a regional leader in the newly emerging field of African American Studies. There he taught courses on Black Psychology, Africana Studies, and Aging in the Third World; and published his first work in Africana Studies. During this period he also completed his second doctorate in Counseling Psychology at Boston College. His dissertation focused on the interrelation of gender, race, and psychological development. It was during this research which involved qualitative work with fifty Black women that he began formulating his theory of recovery, which would appear at the architectonic for subsequent work.

After a brief return to clinical work as family therapist and psychotherapist in Boston, Philadelphia and Albany, he returned to Penn State University, where he had earlier earned his Ph.D. in Educational Administration in the mid 1970s. At Penn State, he directed the newly created Center for the Study of Educational Equity. After teaching and conducting research there for over a decade, he transferred to one of the University's branch campuses near Philadelphia, where he has taught in three programs: education, human development and family studies, and communications.

In 1996, Professor Gresson received the coveted Everett Lee Hughes Award given by the Eastern Communications Association for the best new book in the field. That book, *The Recovery of Race in America* won, three years later, a lifetime achievement award from the International Black Women's Conference. Several conference sessions have been dedicated to exploring ideas introduced in this volume, including meetings at the National Communications Association, the Association of Behavioral and Social Science, and the Eastern Communication Association.

Among Gresson's other publications are the highly acclaimed co-edited volume, *Measured Lies: The Bell Curve Examined, The Dialectics of Betrayal: Sacrifice, Violation and the Oppressed, Black Amnesia, and America's Atonement: Racial Pain, Recovery Rhetoric and the Pedagogy of Healing*. He has recently completed another volume, *Race and Education Primer*, due out in late 2008; and is at work on a Smithsonian supported study of the Yellow Ribbon Phenomenon.