

Locke, Personhood, and Slavery

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Locke's limited defense of slavery in the *Second Treatise* has seemed at odds with his involvement in the actual practice of slavery that was being developed by English at the time. In this talk, I consider a proposal that solves the contradiction – namely, that Locke held highly racist views about West Africans. After considering the plausibility of the proposal, I examine Locke's philosophical views about humans and persons in the *Essay*, against the backdrop of Morgan Godwyn's *Negro's and Indian's Advocate* to see if there is any support for the proposal there. I conclude that there is.