
Wanda Sykes' Examination of White Self-Questioning in Post-Obama America

Lara Cox*¹

¹Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne – Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne, Université Paris 1 - Panthéon-Sorbonne, Université Paris 1 Panthéon Sorbonne, Université Paris 1, Panthéon-Sorbonne, UNIVERSITE PARIS 1 PANTHEON-SORBONNE, Université Paris1 Panthéon-Sorbonne, Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne – France

Abstract

The career of comedian Wanda Sykes has arguably come into its own following the transition from Obama to Trump. Though she had first won mainstream acclaim with her Comedy Central hour-long special *Tongue Untied* in 2003 and then her HBO album *Sick and Tired* in 2006, Sykes was propelled to the status of comedic commentator of Obama-era politics with her address at the White House Correspondents' Association dinner in May 2009, followed shortly after by her album *I'ma Be Me* (HBO, October 2009). If these performances, by virtue of their association with the then-sitting POTUS, also consolidated a White liberal

*Speaker