

University of Colorado Denver

Social Justice Teach-In on AntiBlack Violence

Some Suggested Readings and Resources

compiled by Ms. Tiffany Tasker with Prof. Rachel Harding

Black Lives Matter Movement

Mukul Devichand and Michael Wendling. “Black Lives Matter: The Story of a Slogan.” Produced by BBC. *The Documentary Podcast*. Podcast, MP3 audio, 50:00. 2016

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/p03gzydx>

Podcast by BBC reporters who traveled across the US talking with activists, community members, and the families of Black Americans who had been murdered by state violence.

Alicia Garza, “A Herstory of the Black Lives Matter Movement.” *New Politics*, December 15, 2014.

<https://newpol.org/herstory-blacklivesmatter-movement/>

One of the founders of the Black Lives Matter movement describes the origins of the hashtag and the intention of the movement to center the lives of the most marginalized Black people – particularly women, formerly incarcerated people, disabled and queer/trans folks – in radical social justice work.

Danielle K. Kilgo, Rachel Mourao, and George Sylvie. “Martin to Brown: How time and platform impact coverage of the Black Lives Movement.” *Journalism Practice* 13, no. 4 (August 2018): 413-430.

The authors discuss the rise of the Black Lives Matter movement and provide an examination of how media (particularly newspapers) presented coverage. A majority of the media reviewed focused on the tactics of protestors.

Keeanga-Yamahtta Taylor. *From Black Lives Matter to Black Liberation*. Chicago: Haymarket Books., 2018

Taylor’s text puts #Black Lives Matter in historical perspective and suggests the many ways in which this inclusive justice movement can have profound impact on the transformation of US society.

Somini Sengupta. “Young New Yorkers Want You to Know Why they are Marching.” *New York Times*. June 13, 2020. <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/06/13/nyregion/nyc-protests-george-floyd.html>

Photo-essay highlighting the perspectives of young participants in recent protests in support of human rights for Black people and an end to police violence.

Antiracism/Unlearning Antiblackness

Brown and Proud Press. “On Confronting and Resisting Anti-Blackness in Ourselves & in Our Communities,” *ISSUU*, November 18, 2015.

https://issuu.com/brownproudpresschicago/docs/combined_split_zine.compressed

Creative zine by young Chicanx and Asian activists challenging antiblackness in their communities and supporting solidarity with the Black Lives Matter movement.

Brene Brown and Ibram X. Kendi. "On How to be an Antiracist." Produced by Cadence13. *Unlocking Us*. June 3, 2020. Podcast, MP3 Audio, 1:01:36. <https://brenebrown.com/podcast/brene-with-ibram-x-kendi-on-how-to-be-an-antiracist/>

Interview with writer and historian Ibram X. Kendi, author of How to be an Antiracist, a guide to understanding and dismantling racism in society.

Megan Ming Francis. "Let's get to the root of racial injustice | TEDxRainier." 19:37. March 21, 2016. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-aCn72iXO9s>

Ming Francis traces the roots of racial injustice and provides solutions that can contribute to becoming a equitable society.

Deepa Iyer. "My Role in a Social Change Ecosystem: A Mid-Year Check-In," *Medium*, May 13, 2019, <https://medium.com/@dviyer/my-role-in-a-social-change-ecosystem-a-mid-year-check-in-1d852589cdb1>

Iyer provides questions for individuals and organizations to ask themselves in order to address liberation, equity, justice, and inclusion.

Ibrahim X. Kendi, *How to be an Antiracist*. NY: Random House, 2019

In this memoir, Kendi addresses a personal history of engagement with racism as well as strategies to address and eliminate white supremacy.

Jennifer Mota. "On Deconstructing and Unlearning Anti-Blackness in the Latinx Community," *Remezcla LLC*, 2020, <https://remezcla.com/features/culture/unlearning-antiblackness-latino-latinx-community/>

Mota discusses how the Latinx community can work to decolonize and deconstruct anti-blackness. The article discusses the importance of unlearning anti-blackness, raising black consciousness as well as understanding white and brown privilege and the historical perpetuation of anti-blackness in the Latinx community.

Ben Passmore. *Your Black Friend and Other Strangers*. San Francisco, California: Silver Sprocket, 2018

Passmore provides a digestible explanation of difficult issues like racism, white supremacy, whiteness, anarchism, incarceration and police brutality.

Imani Perry. "Racism is Terrible. Blackness is Not." *The Atlantic*. June 15, 2020. <https://www.theatlantic.com/ideas/archive/2020/06/racism-terrible-blackness-not/613039/>

Perry writes about the persistence of joy and beauty in African American life, in the midst of a generational struggle for justice and equality.

Julia Wuensch, "First, Listen. Then, Learn: Anti-Racism Resources For White People," *Forbes*, June 2, 2020, <https://www.forbes.com/sites/juliawuensch/2020/06/02/first-listen-then-learn-anti-racism-resources-for-white-people/#524a49b016ee>

Wuench offers information to help white individuals learn to be anti-racist. She emphasizes studying historical and contemporary issues rather than reflexively using hashtags.

Whiteness

Carol Anderson. *White Rage*. New York, NY: Bloomsbury Publishing, 2016

Anderson discusses the problem of white rage and antiblack violence as historical impediments to equality for African Americans.

Ashley M. Doane and Eduardo Bonilla-Silva. *White Out: The Continuing Significance of Racism*. New York, NY: Routledge, 2003

A collection of writings by several scholars on the construction of whiteness and white racial identity.

Cheryl Matias. *Feeling White: Whiteness, Emotionality, and Education*. Netherlands: Sense Publisher, 2016

Matias deconstructs white emotionalities and addresses the way race and racism impact everyone and everyday race relations. Matias gives particular attention to racial inequities in education.

Cheryl Matias “What is Critical Whiteness Studies?” IRISE DU YouTube Video, 1:21:06. February 4, 2020. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AzpuOBhmrGs>

Matias speaks at the University of Denver 2020 Diversity Summit.

Nell Painter. *The History of White People*. New York: WW Norton, 2011

This far-reaching study examines the idea of whiteness within the history of race as an invented economic, political and social concept.

George Yancy. *Black Bodies, White Gazes: The Continuing Significance of Race in America*. 2017. Lanham, Maryland: Rowman & Littlefield.

Yancy discusses double consciousness, invisibility, and the disembodiment and formation of the black body. The book examines how the black body is utilized to construct the self-conceptions of white people.

Activism/Resistance

Michelle Alexander. “America, This Is Your Chance.” *New York Times*, June 8, 2020.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/06/08/opinion/george-floyd-protests-race.html>

Essay by legal scholar on the meaning of current protests against antiblack violence for the survival of American democracy.

Nick Estes. *Our History is the Future*. Brooklyn, New York: Verso, 2019

Estes situates contemporary activism, such as that of the Water Protectors against the Dakota Access Pipeline, within the context of the long history of Ojibwe resistance to US settler colonialism.

Simpson, Leanne Betasamosake. *As We Have Always Done*. Minneapolis, Minnesota: University of Minneapolis Press, 2017

Simpson has written a reflection on “unapologetic, place-based Indigenous alternatives” to the colonial state and its institutions.

Keeanga-Yamahtta Taylor. “How Do We Change America?” New Yorker Magazine, July 8, 2020
<https://www.newyorker.com/news/our-columnists/how-do-we-change-america>

Taylor examines the necessity of broadbased transformations in our society related to, but beyond, the problem of police violence.

Beyond the Streets, “26 Ways to be in the Struggle Beyond the Streets,” *ISSUU*, December 17, 2014,
https://issuu.com/nlc.sf.2014/docs/beyondthestreets_final?link_id=1&can_id=8da5f09ecffbaacca78f512aa37a90ed&source=email-just-let-your-sooooooooooul-glo-issue-2&email_referrer=email_819203&email_subject=soul-glo-newsletter-tripleblack360-edition-

A list of ways to celebrate and engage in liberation beyond attending rallies and protests -- because some aren't able to be in the streets.

Mass Incarceration and Defunding Police

Alexander, Michelle. *The New Jim Crow*. New York, NY: The New Press, 2010

Pioneering text on mass incarceration as a contemporary reinvention of racial caste in the United States.

Bryan Stevenson. *Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption*. New York: Random House, 2014

A memoir of the founder of the Equal Justice Institute – and the stories of people wrongly condemned and trapped by our extraordinarily punitive criminal justice system.

Equal Justice Institute, www.eji.com

The Equal Justice Institute is committed to ending mass incarceration and excessive punishment in the United States, to challenge racial and economic injustice, and to protecting basic human rights for the most vulnerable people in our society

Phillip McHarris and Thenjiwe McHarris. “No More Money for the Police.” New York Times, May 30, 2020. <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/05/30/opinion/george-floyd-police-funding.html>

A doctoral candidate and community activist outline the argument that resources for public safety can more effectively and more humanely be used to prioritize education, housing, economic security and health services. Good, specific recommendations for alternative ways of addressing emergencies and caring for vulnerable folks in our communities.

Solidarity and Shared Struggles

News12 The Bronx, “Puerto Ricans March in Solidarity with Black Lives Matter,” June 13, 2020.
<https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/us/puerto-ricans-march-in-solidarity-with-black-lives-matter/ar-BB15tJn0>

Many Puerto Ricans consider themselves part of the African Diaspora and showed support for the protests.

Jack Herrera. “Immigrants Stage a Hunger Strike for Black Lives Inside ICE Detention Center.” *Prism*, June 12, 2020. <https://www.ourprism.org/1952428>

People held in detention by ICE see their struggles connected to that of the Black Lives Matter movement.

Mario Koran. “We’re Suffering the Same Abuses: Latinos Hear Their Stories Echoed in Police Brutality Protests.” *The Guardian*. June 13, 2020
<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/jun/12/latinos-police-brutality-protests-george-floyd>

Latinx people are also often violently targeted by police – and African Americans and Latinx communities share “common pain; common oppressors.”

Jason Wilson. “One of the Gentlest People I know: 75 year old shoved by police a peace activist, not a provocateur.” *The Guardian*. June 14, 2020. <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2020/jun/14/martin-gugino-buffalo-police-catholic-work>

Profile of Catholic Worker pacifist activist, Martin Gugino, who was knocked to the ground by police in Buffalo and suffered a fractured skull.

Books on African American History (general overviews)

- Lerone Bennett. *Before the Mayflower: A History of Black America*. NY: Penguin Books, 1993
- Daina Berry and Kali Gross. *A Black Women’s History of the United States*. Boston: Beacon Press, 2020
- Keisha Blaine. *Set the World on Fire: Black Nationalist Women and the Global Struggle for Freedom*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2018
- “Eyes on the Prize: America’s Civil Rights Years” Documentary series broadcast on PBS, 1987
- Vincent Harding. *There Is a River: The Black Struggle for Freedom in America*. NY: Harcourt Brace Javonovich, 1981
- Ibram X. Kendi. *Stamped from the Beginning: The Definitive History of Racist Ideas in America*. NY: Bold Type Books, 2016

also

- Yale University Open Course: “African American History: From Emancipation to the Present.” <https://oyc.yale.edu/african-american-studies/afam-162>
- Schomburg Center Black Liberation Reading List
<https://www.nypl.org/blog/2020/06/09/schomburg-center-black-liberation-reading-list>

Afro-Pessimism and Necropolitics

- Achille Mbembe. *Necropolitics*. Durham: Duke University Press, 2019
- Frank Wilderson III. *AfroPessimism*. NY: Liveright Books, 2020
- Saidiya Hartman. *Scenes of Subjection*. NY: Oxford University Press, 1997
- Christine Sharp. *In the Wake: On Blackness and Being*. Durham: Duke Univ. Press, 2016



Local Denver Antiracist Organizations

- Soul 2 Soul Sisters - <https://soul2soulsisters.org>
- Reparations4Slavery - <https://reparations4slavery.com>
- Cleo Parker Robinson Dance - <https://cleoparkerdance.org>
- El Centro Su Teatro - <suteatro.org>
- The Source Theater - <https://www.thesourcedenver.org>
- Mo Betta Greens Marketplace - <https://www.facebook.com/mobettagreenMKT/>
- Satya Yoga Cooperative - <https://satyayogacooperative.com>
- Brother Jeff's Cultural Center - brotherjeff.com
- Black Lives Matter 5280 - www.blacklivesmatter5280.com
- Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ) - <https://www.showingupforracialjustice.org>