



SAINT IGNATIUS
CATHOLIC COMMUNITY
The Jesuit Church of Baltimore

RACIAL JUSTICE FORUM Adult Reading List

HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVES ON RACE:

Brown v. Board of Education: A Civil Rights Milestone and Its Troubled Legacy by

James T. Patterson

*In a concise, moving narrative, Bancroft Prize-winning historian James T. Patterson takes readers through the dramatic Supreme Court case *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka*, and studies its fifty-year aftermath. Patterson's most profound contribution to the history of *Brown* is in full presence as he explores the provocative questions that still swirl around the case. Could the court—or President Eisenhower—have done more to ensure compliance with *Brown*? Did the decision touch off the modern civil rights movement? How useful are court-ordered busing and affirmative action against racial segregation? To what extent has desegregation affected the academic achievement of black children? Where indeed do we go from here to realize the expectations that attend the landmark verdict delivered May 1954?*

Time On The Cross: The Economic of American Negro Slavery by Robert William Fogel and

Stanley L. Engerman

First published in 1974, Fogel and Engerman's groundbreaking book reexamined the economic foundations of American slavery, marking "the start of a new period scholarship and some searching revisions of a national tradition."

The Souls of Black Folk by W.E.B. Du Bois

*When first published in 1903, W.E.B. Du Bois's *The Souls of Black Folk* struck like a thunderclap, quickly establishing itself as a work that wholly redefined the history of the black experience in America, introducing the now famous "problem of the color line." In decades since, its stature has only grown, and today it ranks as one of the most influential and resonant works in the history of American thought.*

RACE AND LITERATURE:

Citizen: An American Lyric by Claudia Rankine

*Claudia Rankine's bold new book recounts mounting racial aggressions in ongoing encounters in twenty-first-century daily life and in the media. Some of these encounters are slights, seemingly slips of the tongue, while some are intentional offensives. The accumulative stresses come to bear on a person's ability to speak, perform, and stay alive. Our addressability is tied to the state of our belonging, Rankine argues, as our assumptions and expectations of citizenship. In essay, image, and poetry, *Citizen* is a powerful testament to the individual and collective effects of racism in our contemporary, often named "post-race" society.*

Kindred by Octavia E. Butler

Dana, a modern black woman, is celebrating her twenty-sixth birthday with her new husband when she is snatched abruptly from her home in California and transported to the antebellum South. Rufus, the white son of a plantation owner, is drowning, and Dana has been summoned across the years to save him. After her first summoning, Dana is drawn back, again and again, to the plantation to protect Rufus and ensure that he will grow to manhood and father the daughter who will become Dana's ancestor. Yet each time Dana's sojourns become longer and more dangerous, until it is uncertain whether or not her life will end, long before it has even begun.

CONTEMPORARY PERSPECTIVES ON RACE:

Not In My Neighborhood: How Bigotry Shaped A Great American City by Antero Pietila

Baltimore is the setting for this penetrating examination of bigotry and residential segregation, but the larger landscape is as big as America. Antero Pietila tells the story of how discrimination towards African Americans and Jews shaped the cities in which we live. His narrative centers on residential real estate practices, whose discriminatory tools were the same everywhere: restrictive covenants, redlining, blockbusting, and predatory lending. Mr. Pietila's engrossing story is an eye-opening journey into blocks and neighborhoods, shady practices, and ruthless promoters of all stripes—the dark side of the American dream of owning your own home.

In A Shade of Blue: Pragmatism and the Politics of Black America by Eddie S. Glaude, Jr.

According to Glaude, the pragmatism of philosopher John Dewey, when attentive to the darker dimensions of life—what we often speak of as the blues—can address many of the problems that plague contemporary African American discourse. How blacks think about themselves, imagine their own history, and conceive of their own actions can be rendered in ways that escape bad ways of thinking that assume a tendentious political unity among African Americans simply because they are black, or that short-circuit imaginative responses to problems confronting actual black people. Only when black political leads acknowledge such complexity, Glaude argues, can the real-life sufferings of many African Americans be remedied.

RACE AND GENDER:

Fierce Angels: The Strong Black Woman in American Life and Culture by Sheri Parks

An important work on an essential subject, Fierce Angels explores and explodes the idea of the “strong black woman” as never before. Authoritative yet deeply personal and daringly confessional, Sheri Park’s bold new study of the black female’s role as communal savior and martyr will challenge and change anyone who reads it.

Notes from a Colored Girl: The Civil War Pocket Diaries of Emile Frances Davis by

Karsonya Wise Whitehead

Karsonya Wise Whitehead examines the life and experiences of Emile Frances Davis, a freeborn twenty-one-year-old mulatto woman, through a close reading of three pocket diaries Davis kept from 1863 to 1865. Whitehead explores Davis’s worldviews and politics, her perceptions of both public and private events, her personal relationships, and her place in Philadelphia’s nineteenth-century free black community. Since there are few primary sources written by black women during this time in history, Davis’s diary—though ordinary in its content—is rendered extraordinary simply because it has survived to be included in this very small body of work. Whitehead’s extensive analysis illuminates the lives of many through the simple words of one.

The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks by Rebecca Skloot

Her name was Henrietta Lacks, but scientists know her as HeLa. She was a poor black tobacco farmer whose cells—taken without her knowledge in 1951—became one of the most important tools in medicine, vital for developing the polio vaccine, cloning, gene mapping, and more. Henrietta’s cells have been bought and sold by billions, yet she remains virtually unknown, and her family can’t afford health insurance. This phenomenal New York Times best-seller tells a riveting story of the collision between ethics, race, and medicine; of scientific discovery and faith healing; and of a daughter consumed with questions about the mother she never knew..

RACE AND EDUCATION:

Changing School Culture For Black Males by Dr. Jawanza Kunjufu

With more than 75 solutions for educators to implement in their schools, including mentoring programs, rites of passage, internships, motivational speeches, counseling, and cooperative learning, this helpful resource shows how issues of retention, illiteracy, special education, and dropping out are simply symptoms of a much larger disease, and, if left unaddressed, will continue to stunt the education of black students.

The Evolving Significance of Race: Living, Learning, and Teaching edited by

Sherick Hughes and Theodorea Regina Berry

We are living, learning, and teaching by questioning how to address race in a society that consistently prefers to see itself as colorblind, a society claiming to seek a “post-racial” existence. The edited volume offers evidence of the evolving significance of race from a diverse group of male and female contributors self-identifying as Black, Latino Asian, White, Gay, Lesbian, Jewish, Christian, and Muslim. This book invites readers to co-construct and implement a critical race pedagogy that reflects both an acknowledgment of the evolving significance of race and opportunities for hope through education.

The Trouble With Black Boys...And Other Reflections on Race, Equity, and the Future of Public Education by Pedro A. Noguera

Educators who should be committed to helping young people realize their intellectual potential as they make their way toward adulthood have a responsibility to help them find ways to expand identities related to race so that they can experience the fullest possibility of all that they may become. In this brutally honest—yet ultimately hopeful—book, Pedro Noguera examines the many facets of race in schools and society and reveals what it will take to improve outcomes for all students. From achievement gaps to immigration, Noguera offers a rich and compelling picture of a complex issue that affects all of us.

[The White Architects of Black Education: Ideology and Power in America, 1865-1954](#) by William H. Watkins

A historical investigation into the political and ideological foundations of the “miseducation of the Negro” in America, this timely and provocative volume explores the men and ideas that helped shape educational and societal apartheid from the Civil War to the new millennium. It is a study of how big corporate power uses private wealth to legislate, shape unequal race relations, broker ideas, and define “acceptable” social change. Drawing on little-known biographies of White power brokers who shaped Black education, William Watkins explains the structuring of segregated education that has plagued the United States for much of the 20th century. With broad and interdisciplinary appeal, this book is written in a language accessible to lay people and scholars alike.

WHITENESS AND WHITE PRIVILEGE:

[Privilege](#) edited by Michael S. Kimmel and Abby L. Ferber

Innovative and thought provoking, this timely anthology expands the concept of privilege in America beyond the traditional limiters of being white and male. In addition to readings from well-known authors in the field, this edition includes pieces from contemporary scholars breaking new ground in superordinate studies. Seventeen carefully selected essays explore the multifaceted aspects of privilege: how race, gender, class, and sexual preference interact in the lives of those who are privileged by one or more of these identities. Written from a variety of viewpoints, personal and analytic, the essays in this volume help students understand that “race” can mean white people, “gender” can mean men, and “sexuality” can mean heterosexuals.

[Understanding White Privilege: Creating Pathways to Authentic Relationships Across Race](#) by Frances E. Kendall

Knowingly and unknowingly we all grapple with race every day. [Understanding White Privilege](#) delves into the complex interplay between race, power, and privilege in both organizations and private life. It offers an unflinching look at how ignorance can perpetuate privilege, and offers practical and thoughtful insights into how people of all races can work to break this cycle. Based on thirty years of work in diversity and colleges, universities, and corporations, Frances Kendall candidly invites readers to think personally about how race—theirs and others—frames experiences and relationships, focusing squarely on white privilege and its implications for building authentic relationships across race.

[The History of White People](#) by Nell Irvin Painter

The [History of White People](#) is a mind-expanding and myth-destroying exploration of notions of white race—not merely a skin color but also a signal of power, prestige, and beauty to be withheld and granted selectively. Beginning in Greek and Roman antiquity, where the concept of race did not exist, Painter traces the European conquests and ideologies that contributed to the eventual dominance of the group referred to as Anglo-Saxons and how this evolution of racial consciousness led to our understanding of what it means to be white and to be American today.

[White Like Me: Reflections on Race from a Privileged Son](#) by Tim Wise

From his experiences as a white anti-racist activist and white American, Tim Wise has crafted the first history of what it means to be part of the “majority” in America. Combining the emotion of personal stories with insights gleaned from fifteen years as an educator, [White Like Me](#) examines the ways in which whites reap the benefits of “racial preferences”—whether or not they actively engage in racism. By critically assessing the magnitude of racial privilege and its costs—to people of color and whites as well—Wise provides an elegant and provocative memoir relevant to activists, educators, and everyday folks seeking to understand why race continues to shape life in the United States.

[White Privilege: Essential Readings on the Other Side of Racism](#) by Paula S. Rothenberg

Studies of racism often focus on its devastating effects on the victims of prejudice. But no discussion of race is complete without exploring the other side—the ways in which some people or groups actually benefit, deliberately or inadvertently, from racial bias. This is the subject of Paula Rothenberg's groundbreaking anthology, [White Privilege](#).

RACE IN BALTIMORE:

Baltimore '68: Riots and Rebirth in an American City edited by Jessica I. Elfenbein, Thomas L. Hollowak, and Elizabeth M. Nix

In 1968, Baltimore was home to a variety of ethnic, religious, and racial communities that, like those in other American cities, were confronting a quickly declining industrial base. In April of that year, disturbances broke the urban landscape along lines of race and class. This book offers chapters on events leading up to the turmoil, the riots, and the aftermath as well as four rigorously edited and annotated oral histories of members of the Baltimore community. By reflecting on the stories and analysis presented in this anthology, readers may feel empowered to pursue informed, responsible civic action of their own. Baltimore '68 is the book component of a larger public history project, "Baltimore '68: Riots and Rebirth." The project's companion website (<http://archives.ubalt.edu/bsr/index.html>) offers many more oral histories plus photos, art, and links to archival sources. The book and the website together make up an invaluable teaching resource on cities, social unrest, and racial politics in the 1960s.

Black Baltimore: A New Theory of Community by Harold A. McDougall

Through extensive neighborhood interviews and a compelling assessment of the problems of unraveling communities in urban America, Harold McDougall reveals how, in sections of Baltimore, a 'New Community' is developing. Relying more on vernacular culture, personal networking, and mutual support than on private wealth or public subsidy, the communities of black Baltimore provide an example of self-help and civic action that could and should be occurring in other inner-city areas. Arguing for the primacy of church leadership within the black community, the author describes how these small, flexible groups are creating the foundation of what he calls a New Community, where community-spirited organizers, clergy, public interest advocates, business people, and government workers interact and build relationships through which Baltimore's urban agenda is being developed.

Not In My Neighborhood: How Bigotry Shaped A Great American City by Antero Pietila

Baltimore is the setting for this penetrating examination of bigotry and residential segregation, but the larger landscape is as big as America. Antero Pietila tells the story of how discrimination towards African Americans and Jews shaped the cities in which we live. His narrative centers on residential real estate practices, whose discriminatory tools were the same everywhere: restrictive covenants, redlining, blockbusting, and predatory lending. Mr. Pietila's engrossing story is an eye-opening journey into blocks and neighborhoods, shady practices, and ruthless promoters of all stripes—the dark side of the American dream of owning your own home.

The Baltimore Textbook: A Guide to Where You Live by Becky Slogeris

Where you live shapes who you are, yet learning about Baltimore is often absent from classrooms. In order to become active, change-making citizens, every student in Baltimore needs to have an understanding of the social, political, and economic forces at play in their city. The Baltimore Textbook is a guide to the city's past, present, and future that will empower students and residents of all ages.

The Beautiful Struggle: A Father, Two Sons, and an Unlikely Road to Manhood by

Ta-Nehisi Coates

In this poetic and powerful memoir we meet Paul Coates: A Vietnam veteran and a Black Panther, an old-school disciplinarian and Aquarian believer in free love, a radical publisher and reclamer of lost histories. Most of all, he was an enigmatic god to his seven children, with a mission to carry them across the shoals of inner-city adolescence and through the collapsing civilization of Baltimore in the Age of Crack. His main challenges were Ta-Nehisi, spacey and comically miscalibrated for his environment, and Big Bill, charismatic and equipped for the streets. This thrillingly original story about fathers and sons evokes the golden moments within a dark age and chronicles—in startlingly beautiful language—the richly complex interior lives of boys trying to become men.

The Other Wes Moore: One Name, Two Fates by Wes Moore

Two kids with the same name lived in the same decaying city. One grew up to be a Rhodes Scholar, decorated combat veteran, White House Fellow, and business leader. The other is serving a life sentence in prison. At each stage of their young lives they had come across similar moments of decision, yet their choices would lead them to astonishingly different destinies. Told in alternating dramatic narratives that take readers from heart-wrenching losses to moments of surprising redemption, The Other Wes Moore tells the story of a generation of boys trying to find their way in a hostile world.