Anti-Racism Bookshelf: Tools for Entering a Difficult Conversation

Introduction:

Racism is a system of power. *Anti*-racism is about identifying and challenging the structures that maintain that power. Engaging with anti-racism is not about tearing down individuals; it is about understanding systems. Anti-racism is about action and accountability.

This work is not necessarily comfortable or intuitive. This is true for most of us, and it is perhaps especially true for those of us who are white. White people may feel singled out as the beneficiaries of a system we believe we’ve rejected. If we talk honestly about race, there is always the risk of saying the wrong thing, of putting ourselves out there and being labelled as ignorant or racist.

On the other side of the equation, for those of us who are racialized, talking about racism may bring with it added complexities — it may be painful, confusing, or traumatic. We may risk alienation from friends or colleagues, being labelled as troublemakers, or experiencing a spectrum of violent reactions impacting our jobs, our families, and our safety.

Why, then, would we ever enter into these risky and uncomfortable conversations?

Journalist and author Reni Eddo-Lodge writes:

... I can't talk to white people about race any more because of the consequent denials, awkward cartwheels and mental acrobatics that they display when this is brought to their attention. Who really wants to be alerted to a structural system that benefits them at the expense of others?\(^1\)

Whatever degree of racial privilege you experience, we all have a lot of unpacking to do when it comes to race, and this work is becoming increasingly unavoidable. However, many of us find ourselves entering the conversation feeling ill-equipped. This bookshelf is about pausing, shifting away from the cartwheels and acrobatics and, instead, listening and engaging from a place of good faith.

As people working in the legal system, we regularly confront race and racism, whether overtly or in the margins of our day-to-day work. So how do we prepare ourselves to go

\(^{\text{1 Reni Eddo-Lodge, *Why I'm No Longer Talking to White People About Race* (London and New York: Bloomsbury Circus, 2017) at x-xi. This quote and the title of this book are taken from a 2014 blog post by Eddo-Lodge which elicited a surprising response. This prompted Eddo-Lodge to turn the post into a book – paradoxically – to continue the conversation.}}\)
forward thoughtfully and responsibly when considering racism, the justice system, and our role in these institutions?

The goal of the Anti-Racism Bookshelf is to provide members of the bar with resources on the complex issues of racial identity, implicit bias, and systemic racism. Recognizing that racism permeates all facets of our society, including the justice system, this resource list aims to equip members of the bar with a nuanced understanding of racism and its impacts, as well as possible strategies to counteract these harms.

The resources below are tailored both to those approaching issues of racial injustice for the first time and to those who are more familiar with these topics. They include books, videos, journal articles, podcasts, and edited volumes. Some of the topics below may not immediately appear helpful to you, but we have aimed to provide materials that will be interesting and engaging for people coming from a range of perspectives and experiences.

Anti-racism education requires humility, bravery, openness, and honest engagement. This resource list is a useful tool for professional development as well as personal growth. We hope it represents the start of a larger, ongoing conversation.

**Sharing the Bookshelf**

Please feel free to share this resource widely. If you have questions about accessing any of these resources or would like to suggest additions, please contact us at: antiracismbookshelf@gmail.com.

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*This resource was compiled by Niki Bains, BA (Hons), JD and Sylvie Vigneux, BA, MA, JD as part of a legal education project in 2018-2019.*
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On Whiteness


This film advances the argument that with transformative learning, a dialogue for learning, changing, healing, and undoing race-based oppression can begin. It features the experiences and stories of White women and men who are social justice advocates. They have worked to gain insight into what it means, as White people, to challenge notions of race, racism, culture and White identity development in the United States. Their shared reflections speak to the denial, defensiveness, guilt, fear and shame often related to these issues and show how these responses can be replaced with solid commitments towards racial justice.

Available at U of A: www.library.ualberta.ca/catalog/5499359

Length: 50 mins


Referring to the defensive moves that white people make when their assumptions about race are challenged, white fragility is characterized by emotions such as anger, fear, and guilt, and by behaviors including argumentation and silence. These behaviors, in turn, function to reinstate white racial equilibrium and prevent any meaningful cross-racial dialogue. DiAngelo explores how white fragility develops, how it protects racial inequality, and what we can do to engage more constructively.

Available at U of A: https://search.library.ualberta.ca/catalog/8326734

Length: 192 pgs


In this short essay, Mcintosh outlines the ways in which whiteness operates to create unearned advantages and conferred dominance on white people. She lists specific examples of such advantages or dominance and queries how white people can work toward racial equity.

Online access: https://psychology.umbc.edu/files/2016/10/White-Privilege_McIntosh-1989.pdf

Length: 3 pgs

Who would you be if you were no longer afraid someone would call you racist? What impact could you have if you had proven tools and techniques to create greater racial justice in your organization? Through engaging stories and concrete examples and tools, Obear shares her own personal struggles and the common challenges many whites face as they work to create more equitable, inclusive organizations.


Length: 79 pgs


Alcoff interrogates the presumption that whiteness is a “neutral” category, demystifies the myth of white exceptionalism, and discusses strategies for how white people can engage more productively with race and racism.

Available at U of A: [https://search.library.ualberta.ca/catalog/7913204](https://search.library.ualberta.ca/catalog/7913204)

Length: 223 pgs


This chapter emphasizes the significance of humility, vulnerability, anxiety, questions of complicity, and how being a “good white” is implicated in racial injustice. This collection challenges the contemporary rhetoric of a color-blind or color-evasive world.

Available at U of A: [https://search.library.ualberta.ca/catalog/6862052](https://search.library.ualberta.ca/catalog/6862052)

Length: 20 pgs

### Robin DiAngelo, “White people are still raised to be racially illiterate. If we don’t recognize the system, our inaction will uphold it”, *NBC Think* (September 16, 2018), online: <https://www.nbcnews.com/think/opinion/white-people-are-still-raised-be-racially-illiterate-if-we-ncna906646>.

DiAngelo discusses the implications of white people continuing to operate with racial illiteracy, believing in the illusion of meritocracy and simplistic explanations for racial inequality and racism.

Online access: [https://www.nbcnews.com/think/opinion/white-people-are-still-raised-be-racially-illiterate-if-we-ncna906646](https://www.nbcnews.com/think/opinion/white-people-are-still-raised-be-racially-illiterate-if-we-ncna906646)

Length: 4 pgs
During the 19th century, the American School of Anthropology enfolded Native peoples into their histories, claiming knowledge about and artifacts of these cultures as their rightful inheritance and property. Highlighting several cases, this talk describes how similar enfoldments continue today—despite most contemporary scientists’ explicit rejection of hierarchical ideas of race. This talk highlights extra-legal strategies that can address tensions between indigenous peoples and genome scientists and their facilitators—ethicists, lawyers, and policy makers.

Online access: www.youtube.com/watch?v=pzVKVBgb4S4


*White Like Me*, based on the work of acclaimed anti-racist educator and author Tim Wise, explores race and racism in the U.S. through the lens of whiteness and white privilege. In a stunning reassessment of the American ideal of meritocracy and claims that we’ve entered a post-racial society, Wise offers a fascinating look back at the race-based white entitlement programs that built the American middle class, and argues that our failure as a society to come to terms with this legacy of white privilege continues to perpetuate racial inequality and race-driven political resentments today.

Online access: http://whitelikememovie.org


Offering a wide variety of philosophical approaches to the neglected philosophical problem of ignorance, this collection builds on Charles Mills’ claim that racism involves an inverted epistemology, an epistemology of ignorance. Contributors explore how different forms of ignorance linked to race are produced and sustained and what role they play in promoting racism and white privilege.

See full edited volume in the On Systemic and Institutional Racism section below.


*Look, a White!* returns the problem of whiteness to white people. Yancy considers whiteness within the context of racial embodiment, film, pedagogy, colonialism, its "danger," and its position within the work of specific writers. Identifying the embedded and opaque ways white power and privilege operate, Yancy argues that the Black countergaze can function as a "gift" to whites in terms of seeing their own whiteness more effectively.

Available at U of A: [https://search.library.ualberta.ca/catalog/5642845](https://search.library.ualberta.ca/catalog/5642845)  
Length: 25 pgs
On Racism Against and the Racialization of Indigenous Peoples


Mixed-blood urban Native peoples in Canada are profoundly affected by federal legislation that divides Aboriginal peoples into different legal categories. This work shows the ways in which mixed-blood urban Natives understand their identities and struggle to survive in a world that, more often than not, fails to recognize them.

Available at U of A: https://www.library.ualberta.ca/catalog/4829480
Length: 303 pgs

Sherene Razack, Dying from Improvement: Inquests and Inquiries into Indigenous Deaths in Custody (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2015).

Razack argues that, amidst systematic state violence against Indigenous people, inquiries and inquests serve to obscure the violence of ongoing settler colonialism under the guise of benevolent concern. They tell settler society that it is caring, compassionate, and engaged in improving the lives of Indigenous people – even as the incarceration rate of Indigenous men and women increases and the number of those who die in custody rises. This critique speaks to many of today’s most pressing issues of social justice: the treatment of Indigenous people, the unparalleled authority of the police and the justice system, and their systematic inhumanity towards those whose lives they perceive as insignificant.

Available at U of A: https://library.ualberta.ca/catalog/7063060
Length: 309 pgs


Wolfe argues settler colonialism is a structure, not an event. He differentiates between the logic of elimination, which is specific to settler colonialism, and genocide. However, his analysis seeks to demonstrate how settler colonialism’s drive for elimination manifests as structural genocide: it destroys to replace.

Online access: www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/14623520601056240
Length: 23 pgs

Chris Andersen weaves together personal anecdotes, critical race theory, and discussions of history and law to demonstrate that our understanding of “Métis” – that our very preoccupation with mixedness – is not natural but stems from more than 150 years of sustained labour on the part of the state, scholars, and indigenous organizations. From its roots deep in the colonial past, the idea of “Métis as mixed” pervaded the Canadian consciousness through powerful sites of knowledge production such as the census and courts until it settled in the realm of common sense. In the process, “Métis” has become an ever-widening racial category rather than the identity of an indigenous people with a shared sense of history and culture centred on the fur trade.

Available at U of A: [https://search.library.ualberta.ca/catalog/6397655](https://search.library.ualberta.ca/catalog/6397655)

Length: 284 pgs

BearPaw Media Productions, DVDs (Edmonton, AB: Native Counselling Services of Alberta, 2006-2009)

This collection of videos, produced by NCSA, includes the following titles: “Out in the Cold: Matrimonial Real Property on Reserve,” “The Bang You Feel,” “The Gladue Decision,” “Identity,” and “Wahkohtowin: The relationship between Cree people and natural law.”

Available at Alberta Law Libraries: KF 8210 S56 B43

Length: various


Cull provides an overview of the racialization of Indigenous families/mothers in the context of residential schools, sixties scoop, and contemporary child welfare. She interrogates the stereotype of the “unfit mother” and its pervasive impacts on Indigenous mothers, families, and communities.

Available at U of A: [https://search.library.ualberta.ca/catalog/3774654](https://search.library.ualberta.ca/catalog/3774654)

Length: 15 pgs
First Contact Canada, “First Contact” (September 2018), online: First Contact <www.firstcontactcanada.ca>.

This TV series takes six average Canadians, all with strong opinions about Indigenous people, on a unique 28-day journey to visit Indigenous communities. Over the course of three episodes, the show challenges participants’ perceptions and confronts their opinions about a world they never imagined they would see.

Online access: www.firstcontactcanada.ca
Length: 45 mins each


This article studies the conclusions of Mr. Justice David Wright’s report on the inquiry into the death of Neil Stonechild, and discusses the incident in the context of Aboriginal-settler relations in Saskatchewan. The processes of colonialism are the impulse for the racist ideology that is now encoded in social, political, economic, academic and cultural institutions and practices, and which functions to maintain the status quo of white dominance.

Online access: https://doi.org/10.1017/S0008423906060215
Length: 21 pgs


At once a history and a subversion of history, this book has launched a national conversation about what it means to be “Indian” in North America, and the relationship between Natives and non-Natives in the centuries since the two first encountered each other. King refashions old stories about historical events and figures, takes a sideways look at film and pop culture, relates his own complex experiences with activism and articulates a deep and revolutionary understanding of the cumulative effects of ever-shifting laws and treaties on Native peoples and lands.

Available at U of A: https://search.library.ualberta.ca/catalog/5917653
Length: 288 pgs

In this podcast episode, Lauren Crazybull asks what parallels we can see between broken treaties and gentrification in Edmonton.

Online access: https://letsfindoutpodcast.com/2017/09/27/episode-14-the-land-at-hand/?fbclid=IwAR0wmoAsTcaq41yCuhLN8wBdSi-EgGmDDde-2zmotMQixhP9AyKyylyMYHl

Length: 43 mins


Manuel discusses how the government should address the basic colonial structures that dominate and distort the relationship with Indigenous peoples before reconciliation can occur. He looks at the current state of land claims, the persistence of racism among non-Indigenous people and institutions, decries the role of government-funded organizations like the Assembly of First Nations, and highlights the government’s disregard for the substance of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. He offers his vision of what is needed for true reconciliation.

Available at U of A: https://search.library.ualberta.ca/catalog/8096299

Length: 312 pgs


Maracle challenges stereotypes and beliefs about Indigenous peoples by highlighting questions she often receives from white Canadians about Indigenous issues. The book is a compilation of essays, each framed in a conversational way. The issues discussed include violence, dispossession, and reconciliation.

Available at U of A: https://search.library.ualberta.ca/catalog/8071316

Length: 160 pgs

In the Canadian criminal justice system, Aboriginal peoples are overrepresented as both victims and offenders. The Aboriginal incarcerated population in Canada is rising each year and Aboriginal people are twice as likely to become victims of assaults when compared to non-Aboriginal people. In response, the Canadian state has framed the disproportionate victimization and criminalization of Aboriginal peoples as being an “Indian problem.” Lisa Monchalin challenges the myth of the Indian problem by encouraging readers to recognize the consequences of assimilation, crimes affecting Aboriginal peoples, and violence against Aboriginal women from a more culturally aware position. The book demonstrates that the overrepresentation of Aboriginal peoples in the Canadian criminal justice system is not an Indian problem but a colonial one.

Available at U of A: [https://search.library.ualberta.ca/catalog/7451818](https://search.library.ualberta.ca/catalog/7451818)

Length: 412 pgs


In the summer of 1953, the Canadian government relocated seven Inuit families from Northern Quebec to the High Arctic. They were promised an abundance of game and fish, with the assurance that if things didn’t work out, they could return home after two years. Two years later, another 35 people joined them. There they suffered from hunger, extreme cold, sickness, alcoholism and poverty. It would be thirty years before any of them saw their ancestral lands again. Interviews with survivors are combined with archival footage and documents to tell the poignant story of a people whose lives were nearly destroyed by their own government’s broken promises.

Online access: [www.nfb.ca/film/broken_promises_-_the_high_arctic_relocation](http://www.nfb.ca/film/broken_promises_-_the_high_arctic_relocation)

Length: 52 mins


This documentary chronicles the story of Darrell Night, an Indigenous man who was dumped by two police officers in a barren field on the outskirts of Saskatoon in January 2000. This film is an inquiry the police practise of “starlight tours,” which is responsible for the freezing deaths of Indigenous men.

Online access: [www.nfb.ca/film/two_worlds_colliding](http://www.nfb.ca/film/two_worlds_colliding)

Length: 49 mins

This 1991 paper undertakes a review of Canadian sexual assault jurisprudence involving Native people, with particular attention given to cases involving Native women as complainants. These cases provide examples of various forms of judicial bias, and show how bias can affect the treatment of Native women appearing in courts as complainants/victims. Cases are also discussed in which judges have attempted to recognize a distinct Native “culture.” These cases are reviewed to assess the impact upon Native people, but more specifically, the impact upon Native women.

Online access: https://heinonline.org/HOL/P?h=hein.journals/ottlr23&i=79

Length: 29 pgs


Stote seeks to document the forced sterilization of Aboriginal women in Canada. She argues that this coercive sterilization must be considered in relation to the larger goals of Indian policy: to gain access to Indigenous lands and resources while reducing the numbers of those to whom the federal government has obligations. Stote contends that this sterilization should be understood as an act of genocide, and she explores the ways Canada has managed to avoid this charge. She explicitly challenges Canadians to take up their responsibilities as treaty partners, to reconsider their history and to hold their government to account for its treatment of Indigenous peoples.

Available at U of A: https://search.library.ualberta.ca/catalog/7011870

Length: 200 pgs


TallBear discusses how the view of race as a fixed and natural division among people is perpetuated in the racialization of American Indian tribes and Native American ethnicity. The essay problematizes how DNA analysis is used to measure who is “truly” Indian and, thereby, reinforce racial ideology.

Online access: http://genetics.ncai.org/files/TallBearRacializingtheTribe.pdf

Length: 27 pgs
University of Saskatchewan, “Reconciliation and its Discontents: Settler Governance in an Age of Sorrow by Dr. Audra Simpson” (March 22, 2016), online: YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vGl9HkzQsGg>.

Simpson discusses settlement as territorial possession and demographic and bodily displacement of Indigenous peoples in the United States and Canada. She explores how settlement has been historicized in the nation-building process of these settler states. She problematises how these narratives create the sense that all matters have been settled, and that we are a multicultural, liberal, immigrant society. Simpson discusses how Indigenous peoples are forced to contort to make way for everyone else’s future: their present is the imagined past.

Online access: www.youtube.com/watch?v=vGl9HkzQsGg
Length: 82 mins


Venne examines Treaty 6 using Cree oral history and the authority vested in Indigenous negotiators. The author also draws upon the international context in which treaties were made. The paper presents a Cree version of Treaty 6, and the Elders’ understanding of the importance of the treaty for all peoples.

Online access: https://app.box.com/s/7kk1r7p3im0q8mw3e3fb
Length: 34 pgs


Chelsea Vowel initiates myriad conversations about the relationship between Indigenous peoples and Canada. An advocate for Indigenous worldviews, the author discusses the fundamental issues – the terminology of relationships; culture and identity; myth-busting; state violence; and land, learning, law and treaties – along with wider social beliefs about these issues. She answers the questions that many people have on these topics to spark further conversations at home, in the classroom, and in the larger community.

Available at U of A: https://search.library.ualberta.ca/catalog/7566341
Length: 290 pgs

This paper explores how the issue of racism was treated by the Royal Commission on the Donald Marshall, Jr. Prosecution. It attempts to draw lessons from the Marshall Inquiry on how to explore the role of race as a discriminatory factor in the justice system.

Online access: https://heinonline.org/HOL/P?h=hein.journals/sasklr55&i=107

Length: 31 pgs

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On Anti-Blackness

CBC Gem, “The Skin We’re In” (2017), online: CBC <https://gem.cbc.ca/media/firsthand/season-2/the-skin-were-in/38e815a-00be178daef>.

In this documentary film, acclaimed journalist Desmond Cole explores what it is to be Black in 21st century Canada.

Online access: https://watch.cbc.ca/media/firsthand/season-2/the-skin-were-in/38e815a-00be178daef

Length: 44 mins


In 2014, award-winning journalist Reni Eddo-Lodge wrote on her blog about her frustration with the way that discussions of race and racism in Britain were being led by those who weren’t affected by it. Her words hit a nerve. The post went viral and comments flooded in from others desperate to speak up about their own experiences. Galvanised, she decided to dig into the source of these feelings. Exploring issues from eradicated black history to the inextricable link between class and race, Reni Eddo-Lodge has written a searing, illuminating, absolutely necessary examination of what it is to be a person of colour in Britain today.

Available at U of A: https://search.library.ualberta.ca/catalog/8119377

Length: 27 pgs


This podcast, hosted by former Edmonton Historian Laureate Chris Chang-Yen Phillips, explores the history of the city. In this episode, guest Rebecca Jade asks whether we can put a plaque where the Ku Klux Klan used to publish their newspaper in Edmonton – The Liberator. Along the way we learn about the mayor and premier who lent support to the KKK, a fiery picnic, and what the point of a plaque is anyway.

Online access: https://letsfindoutpodcast.com/2016/10/26/episode-4-the-klan-query/

Length: 40 mins

A current, constructive, and actionable exploration of today’s racial landscape, offering straightforward clarity that readers of all races need to contribute to the dismantling of the racial divide. Oluo offers a contemporary, accessible take on the racial landscape in America, addressing head-on such issues as privilege, police brutality, intersectionality, micro-aggressions, the Black Lives Matter movement, and the “N” word. Oluo answers the questions readers don’t dare ask, and explains the concepts that continue to elude everyday Americans.

Available at U of A: [https://library.ualberta.ca/catalog/8159180](https://library.ualberta.ca/catalog/8159180)

Length: 248 pgs


This is a groundbreaking book that provides a concise overview of the narrative of the Black experience in Canada. Reynolds traces this narrative from slavery under French and British rule in the eighteenth century to the practice of racial segregation and the fight for racial equality in the twentieth century. Included are personal recollections by Wanda Robson, Viola Desmond’s youngest sister, together with important but previously unpublished documents and other primary sources in the history of Blacks in Canada.

Available at U of A: [https://library.ualberta.ca/catalog/7420671](https://library.ualberta.ca/catalog/7420671)

Length: 202 pgs


This report outlines aspects of anti-Black racism in Canada. It details historical factors such as the negative effects of colonialism, the role of slavery in Canada, exclusion and segregation, and systemic and overt racism in education, policing, and the justice system. The authors analyze data concerning the over-incarceration of African Canadians, the police practice of carding, non-conviction records, the investigation of police shootings, the over-representation of African Canadian children in the child welfare system, the school discipline of African Canadian children, and housing and homelessness for African Canadian families.

Online access: [https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/Treaties/CCPR/Shared%20Documents/CAN/INT_CCPR_CSS_CAN_20858_E.pdf](https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/Treaties/CCPR/Shared%20Documents/CAN/INT_CCPR_CSS_CAN_20858_E.pdf)

Length: 45 pgs

This documentary pays tribute to a group of Canadians who took racism to court: the unsung heroes in the fight for Black civil rights. Focusing on the 1930s to the 1950s, this film documents the struggle of 6 people who refused to accept inequality.

Online access: www.nfb.ca/film/journey_to_justice

TEDX Talks, “Let’s get to the root of racial injustice: Megan Ming Francis” (March 21, 2016), online: YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-aCn72iXO9s>.

In this inspiring and powerful talk, Megan Francis traces the root causes of our current racial climate to their core causes, debunking common misconceptions and calling out “fix-all” cures to a complex social problem.

Online access: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-aCn72iXO9s

Length: 47 mins

Length: 20 mins

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On Systemic and Institutional Racism


This book is an anthology of both classic and contemporary writings on race, racialization, racism, and colonialism and their intersections with indigeneity, class, gender, ethnicity, and sexuality. It offers historical, comparative, and international perspectives. Themes of ethnocentrism, multiculturalism, biculturalism, cultural genocide, conquest and colonization, slavery, anti-Black racism, Orientalism, migrant labour, resistance, and the social construction of race are explored.

Available at U of A: [https://library.ualberta.ca/catalog/8223936](https://library.ualberta.ca/catalog/8223936)

Length: 718 pgs


Conversations about the history and persistence of racism and an ideology of whiteness that lies behind it. This podcast discusses how a racism that had lain mostly hidden in the darkest corners of Western democracies has seeped into the political mainstream.

Online access: [www.cbc.ca/radio/ideas/the-enright-files-on-race-and-racism-1.4845453](www.cbc.ca/radio/ideas/the-enright-files-on-race-and-racism-1.4845453)

Length: 54 mins

TEDX Talks, “Allegories on Race and Racism: Dr. Camara Jones” (July 10, 2014), online: YouTube [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GNhcY6fTyBM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GNhcY6fTyBM).

In this illuminating TEDx Talk, Dr. Jones tells four stories about how we see race and the importance of taking an institutional approach to understanding race and racism.

Online access: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=GNhcY6fTyBM](www.youtube.com/watch?v=GNhcY6fTyBM)

Length: 21 mins

The RDS case began in the street of a predominantly Black neighbourhood in Halifax, and wound its way through Youth Court, two provincial Appellate Courts and ultimately to the Supreme Court of Canada. Drawing on Critical Race Theory, this article focuses on the legal and social issues that shaped this journey and on the implications that the first case explicitly arguing the issue of race before the Supreme Court of Canada under s 15 of the Charter has for the Black community in Canada and Nova Scotia in particular. Aylward also discusses judicial consideration of social context in decision-making and the expansion of the reasonable person standard.

Online access: https://heinonline.org/HOL/P?h=hein.journals/unblj47&i=255

Length: 62 pgs


Historically, Canadians have considered themselves to be more or less free of racial prejudice. Although this perception has been challenged in recent years, it has not been completely dispelled. In Colour-Coded, Constance Backhouse illustrates the tenacious hold that white supremacy had on our legal system in the first half of this century, and underscores the damaging legacy of inequality that continues today. Backhouse presents detailed narratives of six court cases, each giving evidence of blatant racism created and enforced through law.

Available at Alberta Law Libraries: KF4483 C58 B32 1999
https://catalogue.lawlibrary.ab.ca/vwebv/holdingsInfo?bibId=30472

Length: 432 pgs


This documentary was created to start discussions about racism in Calgary and Canada in general. Production took place over a year and a half and involved over 100 interviews. The goal is to have people view the film and start having honest conversations about racism and privilege in our society.

Online access: www.canadianculturalmosaicfoundation.com/yyc-colours.html

Length: 50 mins

What if our interactions with those different than us are strongly influenced by things happening below the radar of awareness, hidden even from ourselves? *Deep Diversity* explores this question and argues that “Us-versus-Them” is an unfortunate but normal part of the human experience due to reasons of both nature and nurture—and this is especially true regarding issues of race. *Deep Diversity* seeks to reframe the debate regarding racism and systemic discrimination in a practical, scientific and compassionate manner, sorely needed as Us/Them feelings escalate following race-based shootings in the US as well as the politically motivated murder of soldiers in Canada or journalists in Paris.

Available at Alberta Law Libraries: BF575 P9 C46 2015
[https://catalogue.lawlibrary.ab.ca/vwebv/holdingsInfo?bibId=31615](https://catalogue.lawlibrary.ab.ca/vwebv/holdingsInfo?bibId=31615)
Length: 204 pgs


Multiculturalism is regarded as a key feature of Canada’s national identity. Yet despite an increasingly diverse population, racialized Canadians are systematically excluded from full participation in society through personal and structural forms of racism and discrimination. *Race and Anti-Racism in Canada* provides readers with a critical examination of how racism permeates Canadian society and articulates the complex ways to bring about equity and inclusion both individually and systemically.

Available at U of A: [https://search.library.ualberta.ca/catalog/8336477](https://search.library.ualberta.ca/catalog/8336477)
Length: 416 pgs


This documentary tells the personal story of filmmaker Jari Osborne’s father, a Chinese-Canadian veteran. She describes her father’s involvement in World War II and uncovers a legacy of discrimination and racism against British Columbia’s Chinese-Canadian community. Sworn to secrecy for decades, Osborne’s father and his war buddies now vividly recall their top-secret missions behind enemy lines in Southeast Asia. Theirs is a tale of young men proudly fighting for a country that had mistreated them. This film does more than reveal an important period in Canadian history. It pays moving tribute to a father’s quiet heroism.

Length: 48 mins

Razack explores what happens when whites look at non-whites, and in particular at non-white women. Examining the discussion of equity issues in the classroom and immigration and sexual violence cases in the courtroom, she argues that non-white women must often present themselves as culturally different instead of oppressed. Seen as victims of their own oppressive culture who must be pitied and rescued by white men and women, non-white women cannot then be seen as subjects. This book makes clear why we must be wary of educational and legal strategies that begin with saving ‘Other’ women. It offers powerful arguments for why it is important to examine who are the saviours and who are the saved, and what we must do to disrupt these historical relations of power.

Available at U of A: [https://search.library.ualberta.ca/catalog/5973444](https://search.library.ualberta.ca/catalog/5973444)

Length: 272 pgs


Online access: [https://www.cbc.ca/radio/podcasts/documentaries/the-secret-life-of-canada/](https://www.cbc.ca/radio/podcasts/documentaries/the-secret-life-of-canada/)

Length: various


Offering a wide variety of philosophical approaches to the neglected philosophical problem of ignorance, this collection builds on Charles Mills’ claim that racism involves an inverted epistemology, an epistemology of ignorance. Contributors explore how different forms of ignorance linked to race are produced and sustained and what role they play in promoting racism and white privilege.

Available at U of A: [https://search.library.ualberta.ca/catalog/5779881](https://search.library.ualberta.ca/catalog/5779881)

Length: 276 pgs
TEDxHampshireCollege, “How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love Discussing Race: Jay Smooth” (November 15, 2011), online: YouTube <www.youtube.com/watch?v=MbdxeFcQtaU>.

This short TEDx talk considers how to discuss race with others, avoid defensiveness yourself, and shift to thinking about anti-racism as a practice (rather than an achievement).

Online access: www.youtube.com/watch?v=MbdxeFcQtaU  
Length: 11 mins


This collection considers the alignment of genetic science with commercial trends in genealogy, with legal and forensic developments, and with pharmaceutical innovation to examine how these trends lend renewed authority to biological understandings of race and history. Essays by scholars across a wide range of disciplines explore the emerging and often contested connections among race, DNA, and history.

Available at U of A: https://search.library.ualberta.ca/catalog/5842788  
Length: 370 pgs


Racial tolerance and a dedication to principles of justice have become part of the Canadian identity, and are often used to distinguish our historical character from that of other countries. Walker challenges this image, examining four historical cases in which the legal issue was “race,” to explore the role of the Supreme Court of Canada and the law in the racialization of Canadian society. Walker demonstrates that Supreme Court Justices were expressing the prevailing “common sense” about “race” in their legal decisions. He shows that injustice on the grounds of “race” has been chronic in Canadian history, and that the law itself was once instrumental in creating these circumstances. The book concludes with a controversial discussion of current directions in Canadian law and their potential impact on Canada’s future as a multicultural society.

Available at Alberta Law Libraries: KF4483 C58 W45 1997  
https://catalogue.lawlibrary.ab.ca/vwebv/holdingsInfo?bibId=16329  
Length: 463 pgs

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On Terrorism and the Surveillance of Brown Bodies


This article recasts the current debate around Islamophobia in Canada by suggesting the need for a definition of Islamophobia that renders visible the multiple, complex, and overlapping ways in which this form of racism plays itself out in people’s lives. Canadian Muslims are targeted and discriminated against by both governments and private actors. The role of the Canadian state, however, in perpetuating Islamophobia remains under-explored in part because state-driven Islamophobia in Canada, unlike its American variant, particularly during the Trump era, proceeds largely through legislative, judicial, and other forms of state silences rather than through laws that explicitly target Muslim communities.

Online access: https://heinonline.org/HOL/P?h=hein.journals/unblj69&i=328
Length: 39 pgs


This article examines three judicial decisions in three different jurisdictions involving niqab-wearing women in courtrooms. It is argued that serious consideration must be given to the multiple rights of Muslim women by reassessing the traditional use of demeanor evidence. Some judges in these cases attempt to be inclusive of niqab-wearing women in accordance with policies of multiculturalism, yet they do not go far enough in protecting Muslim women’s rights. Other judges refuse to accommodate the niqab entirely. This troubling analysis parallels attempts made to exclude niqab-wearing women from public spaces in Canada and permits dubious objections that certain requests for accommodation have gone too far.

Online access: https://heinonline.org/HOL/P?h=hein.journals/unblj69&i=328
Length: 23 pgs

Razack argues that three stereotypical figures have come to represent the ‘war on terror’ – the ‘dangerous’ Muslim man, the ‘imperilled’ Muslim woman, and the ‘civilized’ European. She explores the use of these characterizations in the creation of the myth of the family of democratic Western nations obliged to use political, military, and legal force to defend itself against a menacing third world population. It argues that this myth is promoted to justify the expulsion of Muslims from the political community, a process that takes the form of stigmatization, surveillance, incarceration, torture, and bombing.

Available at U of A: [https://search.library.ualberta.ca/catalog/4060583](https://search.library.ualberta.ca/catalog/4060583)

Length: 250 pgs


In the aftermath of 9/11, there has been a wave of intensified surveillance throughout Western democracies in the moral panic surrounding national security. Drawing on empirical data, this article explores the way in which Sikh bodies have become problematized against the backdrop of harsher profiling and policing measures directed at racialized populations, in particular ‘suspicious’ brown bodies.


Length: 16 pgs

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Delving behind Canada’s veneer of multiculturalism and tolerance, *Policing Black Lives* traces the violent realities of anti-blackness from the slave ships to prisons, classrooms and beyond. Robyn Maynard provides readers with the first comprehensive account of nearly four hundred years of state-sanctioned surveillance, criminalization and punishment of Black lives in Canada.

Available at U of A: [https://search.library.ualberta.ca/catalog/8070837](https://search.library.ualberta.ca/catalog/8070837)  
Length: 280 pgs

This volume examines racism within the process of criminal justice. In every society, criminal justice plays a key role establishing social control and maintaining the hegemony of the dominant economic classes. The contributors to this anthology argue that the differential treatment of people of colour and First Nations peoples is due to systemic racism within all levels of the criminal justice system, which serves these dominant classes. Ideological and cultural changes are preconditions for the success of anti-racist policies and practices within the criminal justice system and within other state institutions. Recommendations for transformations in justice policy and practice are provided.

Available at U of A: [https://search.library.ualberta.ca/catalog/2476141](https://search.library.ualberta.ca/catalog/2476141)  
Length: 374 pgs

This interim report stems from an inquiry by the OHRC into racial disparities in how police services are provided in Toronto, using data, lived experiences, and case law. The data shows an over-representation of Black people in use of force cases that result in serious injury or death. The findings point to persistent concerns about anti-Black racism in policing in Toronto. The results are disturbing and call for immediate action.

Online access:  
[http://ohrc.on.ca/sites/default/files/TPS%20Inquiry_Interim%20Report%20EN%20FINA L%20DESIGNED%20for%20remed_3_0.pdf](http://ohrc.on.ca/sites/default/files/TPS%20Inquiry_Interim%20Report%20EN%20FINAL%20DESIGNED%20for%20remed_3_0.pdf)  
Length: 132 pgs

Praised by Harvard Law professor Lani Guinier, this book directly challenges the notion that the election of Barack Obama signals a new era of colorblindness. Legal scholar Michelle Alexander argues that “we have not ended racial caste in America; we have merely redesigned it.” By targeting black men through the War on Drugs and decimating communities of color, the U.S. criminal justice system functions as a contemporary system of racial control—relegating millions to a permanent second-class status—even as it formally adheres to the principle of colorblindness.

Available for purchase: [https://thenewpress.com/books/new-jim-crow](https://thenewpress.com/books/new-jim-crow)  
Length: 336 pgs


Calgary is home to people with diverse places of birth, languages, and ethnic and religious affiliations. Its membership in the Canadian Coalition of Municipalities against Racism and Discrimination and adoption of the municipal Welcoming Community Policy are clear signs of progressive steps towards inclusion and equality. Still, the persistently high national standings for police reported hate crime and frequent complaints of racial profiling among ethno-cultural members have reminded the community of the need to sustain dialogues and actions to address racial discrimination.

Length: 28 pgs


This book examines a combination of psychological, sociological, organizational, political, and community perspectives, resulting in a holistic, multi-faceted approach to understanding the phenomenon of racial profiling and to pre-empting or eradicating it.

Available at Alberta Law Libraries: KF4483 C58 R335 2018  
[https://catalogue.lawlibrary.ab.ca/vwebv/holdingsInfo?bibId=31852](https://catalogue.lawlibrary.ab.ca/vwebv/holdingsInfo?bibId=31852)  
Length: 416 pgs

This essay considers the crisis of US policing and situates it in a global context. Kelley, the Chair of US History at UCLA, argues that protests around high profile police killings of civilians in the US during 2014 and 2015 are domestic instances of a global struggle. He describes how organizers from Ferguson to Baltimore to Gaza have been engaged in a dynamic social movement against global neoliberal racial regimes, settler colonialism, and permanent war.

Available at U of A: https://search.library.ualberta.ca/catalog/7528663

Length: 18 pgs

Ronald-Frans Melcher, Inequality Before the Law (Ottawa: Research and Evaluation Branch, Community, Contract and Aboriginal Policing Services Directorate, Royal Canadian Mounted Police, 2006).

Most people experience contacts with police at some time. Few experience these as a diminishment of their rights to privacy and the vast majority of such contacts end peacefully without serious consequence. Nonetheless, even benign contacts often leave people wondering for what reasons they were singled out. For individuals who feel visible traits such as skin colour, age, clothing or non-legally relevant behaviours make them more subject to unwanted attention from police, it can be experienced as a violation. This sense of violation in itself can further result in an escalation of response.

Available at Alberta Law Libraries: HV8141 M45 2006
https://catalogue.lawlibrary.ab.ca/vwebv/holdingsInfo?bibId=23501

Length: 97 pgs


The authors in this collection provide critical and historical analyses of the connections between processes of “racialization” and “criminalization” in Canada. The book seeks to engage the reader in thinking critically about how conceptualizations of racial identity and crime are interwoven.

Available at U of A: https://search.library.ualberta.ca/catalog/5083717

Length: 221 pgs
For many years, racialized and Indigenous communities have spoken out about their deep mistrust of public institutions – such as police, corrections, child welfare agencies and others. These are the very institutions we have entrusted to protect us and help us with highly sensitive issues, and which often respond to the needs of the most vulnerable people in our society. Yet, for racialized and Indigenous peoples, too often the trust they should feel is overridden by the lived experience of racial profiling, such as being unfairly singled out for surveillance, scrutiny, investigation and disproportionately harsh treatment.


Length: 165 pgs


This book focuses on racial profiling in a law enforcement context, particularly as it relates to domestic policing and anti-terrorism initiatives, and issues concerning the reality and impact on peoples of African descent and those ensnared in post 9/11 security actions.

Available at Alberta Law Libraries: KF4483 C58 S55 2007

[https://catalogue.lawlibrary.ab.ca/vwebv/holdingsInfo?bibId=28192](https://catalogue.lawlibrary.ab.ca/vwebv/holdingsInfo?bibId=28192)

Length: 319 pgs


The colour of justice in Canada is largely driven by stereotypical assumptions about crime and those who commit it. Recently, the use of race, ethnicity, and religion as indicators of suspicion by the police and security officials has come under scrutiny. The focus, however, has largely been on the American experience. *The Colour of Justice* provides the first comprehensive look at racial profiling in Canada. Its aim is to foster understanding and reform. The book uses social science evidence, judicial decisions, commission findings, government and police documents, narratives, and media reports to inform its analysis.

Available at Alberta Law Libraries: KF5399.5 M5 T36 2006

[https://catalogue.lawlibrary.ab.ca/vwebv/holdingsInfo?bibId=21679](https://catalogue.lawlibrary.ab.ca/vwebv/holdingsInfo?bibId=21679)

Length: 268 pgs

Carol Tator and Frances Henry explore the meaning of racial profiling in Canada as it is practised not only by the police but also by many other social institutions. The authors provide a theoretical framework within which they examine racial profiling from a number of perspectives and in a variety of situations. They analyse the discourses of the media, policing officials, politicians, civil servants, judges, and other public authorities to demonstrate how those in power communicate and produce existing racialized ideologies and social relations of inequality through their common interactions.


Length: 304 pgs

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On Intersectionality


Although some progress has been made, feminist theorizing around racism and colonialism is not being undertaken as a matter of course. Ruparelia explores why feminists, and white feminists in particular, still do not regularly integrate the impact of racism and colonialism into their writing and the potential consequences of this choice. She argues that ignoring the role of racism and colonialism in legal scholarship perpetuates systems of domination which feminism should be aggressively dismantling and, thus, impedes the feminist project. The author ultimately questions whether theorizing without meaningful analysis of the role of racism, colonialism, and other sites of oppression can still be considered feminist.

Online access: https://heinonline.org/HOL/P?h=hein.journals/cajwol26&i=96
Length: 36 pgs

Southbank Centre, “Kimberlé Crenshaw: On Intersectionality” (March 14, 2016), online: YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-DW4HLgYPlA>.

Professor Kimberlé Crenshaw, the academic who coined the term ‘intersectionality’ and co-founder of the African American Policy Forum, gives a keynote on the unique challenges facing women and girls of colour when it comes to the struggle for gender equality, racial justice and wellbeing.

Online access: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-DW4HLgYPlA
Length: 31 mins


This edited volume proposes that to understand the law-society relation, we need to place law within the nexus of race, class, and gender relations in society. Recognizing that inequalities along race, class, and gender lines exist in society raises important questions: What role has law historically played in generating today’s inequalities? Is law part of the “problem” or part of the “solution”? Can we use law as a strategy to achieve meaningful change?

Available at U of A: https://search.library.ualberta.ca/catalog/6629863
Length: 354 pgs

This book represents Maracle’s personal struggle with womanhood, culture, traditional spiritual beliefs and political sovereignty. The book is an attempt to present a Native woman’s sociological perspective on the impacts of colonialism.

Available at U of A: [https://search.library.ualberta.ca/catalog/1791316](https://search.library.ualberta.ca/catalog/1791316)

Length: 142 pgs


This documentary features Black women active in politics as well as community, labour and feminist organizing. They share their insights and personal testimonies on the double legacy of racism and sexism, linking their personal struggles with the ongoing battle to end systemic discrimination and violence against women and people of colour.

Online access: [www.nfb.ca/film/sisters_in_the_struggle](http://www.nfb.ca/film/sisters_in_the_struggle)

Length: 49 mins

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