

Yes, Anti-  
Blackness is  
Systemic: Arm  
Yourself with  
Statistics

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Charles Washington  
Matt Colburn  
Diana Benson





## Why have this discussion?

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- Be prepared for your next argument with a family member, friend, colleague, or a random stranger on the internet
- Learn something new if these statistics are unknown to you



## Open Discussion

- The images and ideas in this presentation are not censored in any way
- Be open to new points of view
- This is not a “comfortable” conversation

# Resources

Are you or someone you know having a crisis?

- 24 Hour Montgomery County Crisis Hotline: 301-738-2255
- 24 Hour National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 800-273-8255 Press 1 for Veterans Crisis Line
- 24 Hour online support at Crisischat.orgnew window
- 24 Hour text chat support: Text “Start” to 741741
- 24 Hour National Domestic Violence Hotline: 800-799-7233

Do you wish to report a concern about discrimination at the college?

- EthicsPoint toll-free number: 844-572-2198
- EthicsPoint online reporting: Montgomerycollege ethicspoint:  
<https://info.montgomerycollege.edu/resources/code-of-ethics-and-employee-conduct/reporting-concerns.html>

# Cyberwars (observing)



ChilledCow 2 weeks ago

ChilledCow stands against all forms of racism, injustice and violence

I encourage you to help in any way you can

<https://blacklivesmatters.carrd.co/>

Read more

 14K  



 2 weeks ago

I thought the issue was police brutality.

 67  **REPLY**

 [Hide 35 replies](#)



# Cyberwars (engaging)



Colburn Classroom 2 weeks ago (edited)



The amount of people responding to this post and saying the issue isn't systemic racism against black people is disheartening. Face the facts. It is about systemic racism against black people. Had a white person been in George Floyd's shoes, the same thing would not have happened.

Saying black lives matter isn't about being anti-white. It's about acknowledging the humanity of black people, which our actions as a society do not. Black lives matter.



2 weeks ago


Cite literally a single fact of this case that points to Floyd's murder being racially motivated. Literally just state a single fact that leads to that conclusion.



7



REPLY

A photograph of the Montgomery College campus. In the foreground, large, light blue, 3D block letters spell out "MONTGOMERY COLLEGE". The letters are set against a dark, semi-transparent overlay that contains text. Behind the letters, a green lawn slopes upwards towards a modern building with large glass windows and a brick facade. The sky is clear and blue.

## Premise

-We do not always have open discussions around race and racism at Montgomery College. This may allow misguided perceptions to persist because those who hold them are not always directly challenged.

-This does not mean there is not racism at Montgomery College. Racism at Montgomery College may be more covert than overt.

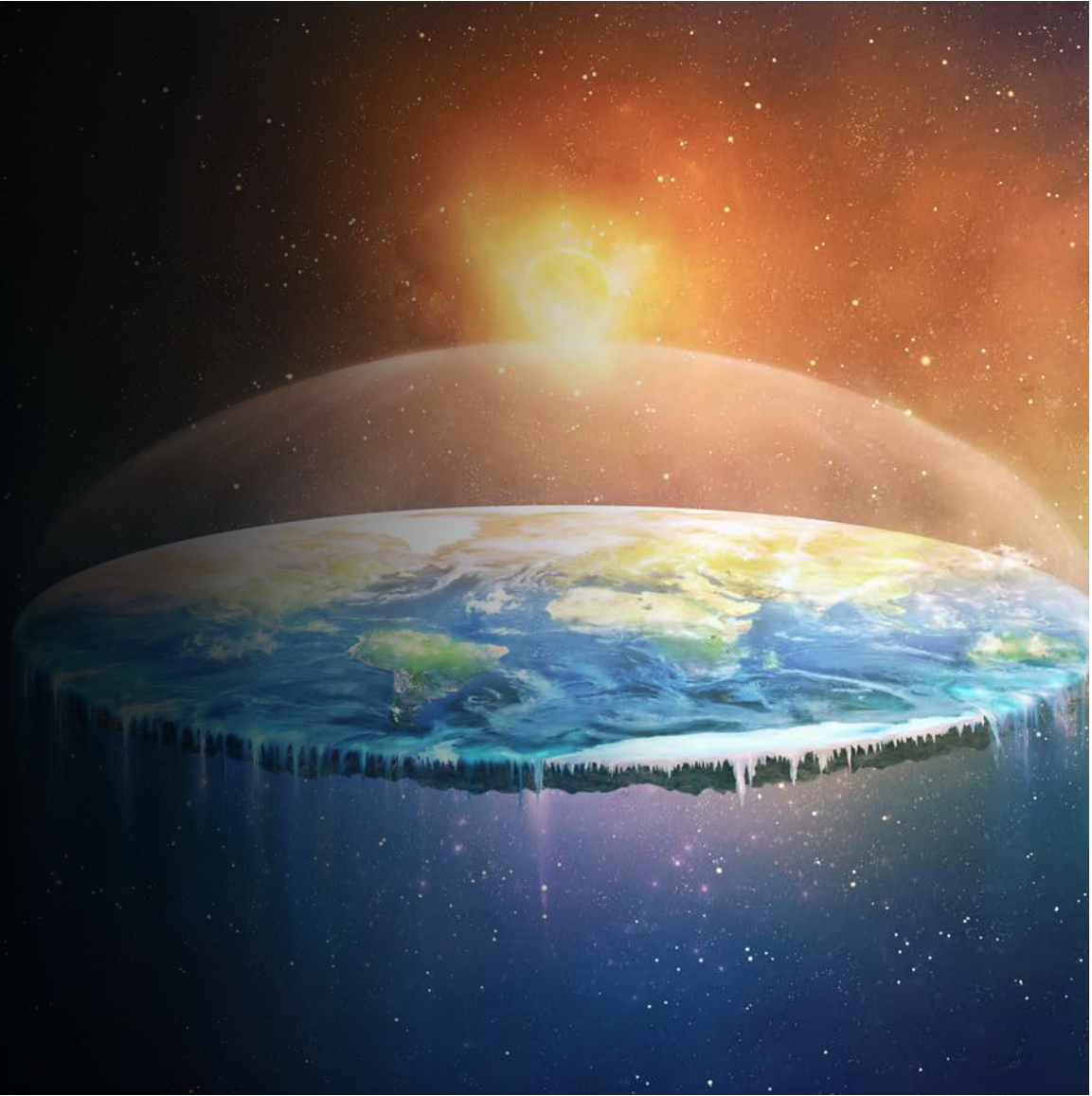




## Caveat

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-Of course, there is a point where arguing with a racist is like arguing with a flat-earther (an exercise in futility), but it's worth bringing logic into the situation to persuade those who are capable of being persuaded (not everyone is)







## Why “Anti-Blackness”?

Anti-blackness is one way some black scholars have articulated what it means to be marked as black in an anti-black world. It's **more than just “racism against black people.”** That oversimplifies and defangs it. It's a theoretical framework that illuminates society's inability to recognize our humanity — the disdain, disregard and disgust for our existence.

- [kihana miraya ross in the NYTimes](#)



# Afro-pessimism

- The African-American studies professor Frank B. Wilderson, who coined the term “Afro-pessimism,” argues that anti-blackness indexes the structural reality so that in the larger society, **blackness is inextricably tied to “slaveness.”** While the system of U.S. chattel slavery technically ended over 150 years ago, it continues to mark the ontological position of black people. Thus, in the minds of many, the relation between humanity and blackness is an antagonism, is irreconcilable.

-[kihana miraya ross in the NYTimes](#)

# Discussion

Do you think white people continue to see Black people as slaves even today?



# Implicit Bias

Good

Bad

Awful


1

African American

European American

Bad

Good



3

African American

European American



2

European American

African American

Bad

Good

Happy

4

# Discussion

Which term do you find more useful - “implicit bias” vs. “anti-blackness”?

## The counter-argument(s)

- “Racism isn’t an issue. Slavery ended hundreds of years ago.”
- “Segregation has been gone for a long time now, but Black people still blame the system.”





# Table of Contents

- Healthcare
- Policing
- Mass Incarceration
- Hiring



# Healthcare

- African-American patients tend to receive **lower-quality health services**, including for cancer, H.I.V., prenatal care and preventive care, vast research shows. They are also less likely to receive treatment for cardiovascular disease, and they are more likely to have unnecessary limb amputations ([NYTimes](#)),



# Counter-arguments

“But isn’t this just due to Black people having more preexisting conditions and not doctor bias?”

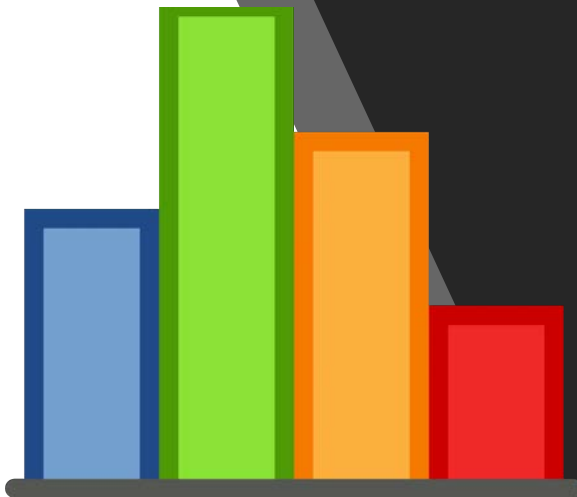
“Could it just be that African-Americans or the colored population do not wash their hands as well as other groups?”

Stephen A. Huffman,  
State Senator of Ohio





# Refutation (Healthcare)



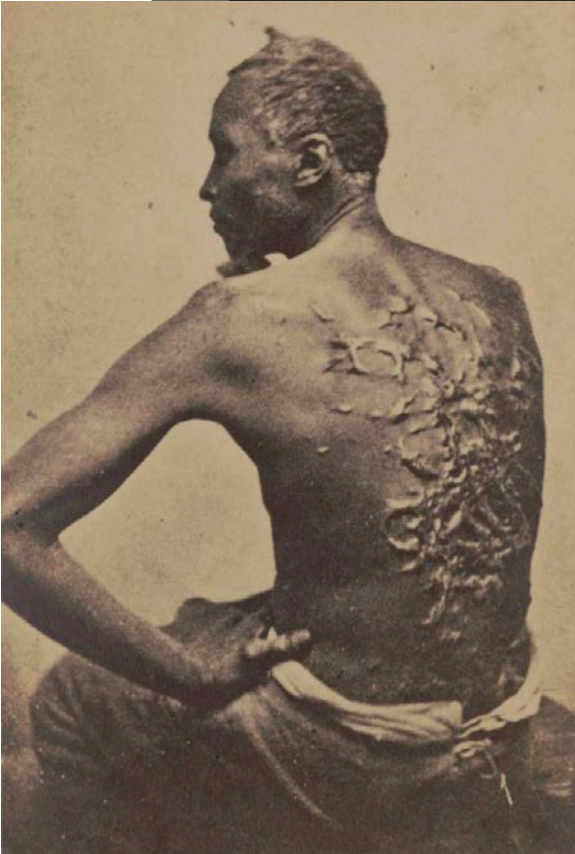
- Even when we consider white and Black patients with the same condition, they receive different care
- “In adjusted analyses, black patients with congestive heart failure or pneumonia received lower quality of care overall than other patients with these conditions by both explicit process criteria and implicit review” ([National Library of Medicine](#))

## Enduring pain

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- “A 2000 study out of Emory University found that at a hospital emergency department in Atlanta, 74 percent of white patients with bone fractures received painkillers compared with 50 percent of black patients.” ([Washington Post](#))
- Tuskegee Experiment - 1932-1972 – Black people with untreated syphilis were “studied” with government funding ([CDC](#))

# Enduring Pain



- Beliefs that blacks and whites are fundamentally and biologically different have been prevalent in various forms for centuries. In the United States, these beliefs were championed by scientists, physicians, and slave owners alike to justify slavery and the inhumane treatment of black men and women in medical research (20–25).
- In the 19th century, prominent physicians sought to establish the “physical peculiarities” of blacks that could “serve to distinguish him from the white man” (23). Such “peculiarities” included thicker skulls, less sensitive nervous systems, and diseases inherent in dark skin (20, 21, 23) Dr. Samuel Cartright, for instance, wrote that blacks bore a “Negro disease [making them] insensible to pain when subjected to punishment” (20).

([Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America](#))

# Policing

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- “In the United States, black people are **three times as likely** to be killed by the police than white people” ([NYTimes](#))
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Eric Garner  
(2014)







Counter  
argument(s)

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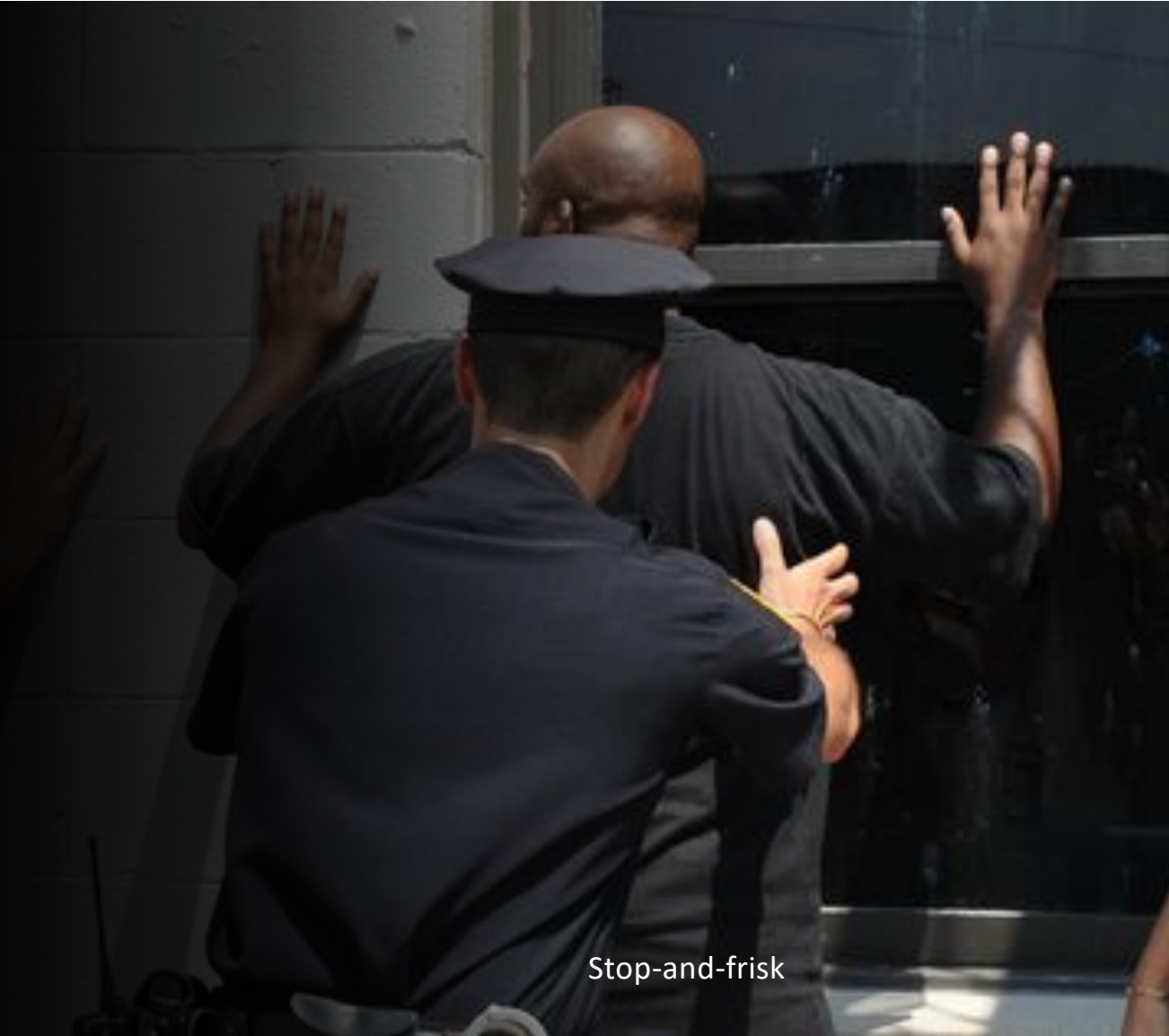
“But isn’t the real issue police brutality?”

“Isn’t that because Black people commit more crime?”

## Policing (continued)

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- “In 2009, black and Latino people in New York were nine times as likely to be stopped by the police compared to white residents” ([NYTimes](#)).



Stop-and-frisk

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# Stop- and-Frisk

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- During the height of stop-and-frisk, the NYPD routinely argued that the disproportionate number of stops of black people was justified because, according to the department, black people are disproportionately involved in violent crimes. Given that **over 90 percent** of stops had nothing to do with a suspected violent crime, the race of those convicted of violent crimes generally cannot explain the disproportionate number of black people stopped every year” ([NYCLU, ACLU of New York](#)).

## Sentencing

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- "Black men who commit the same crimes as white men receive federal prison sentences that are, on average, nearly 20 percent longer."  
([Washington Post](#))






## Counter-argument(s)

- “But isn’t this just a result of criminal history?”

 3 weeks ago

Why in the world would you simplify a multi-variate issue to such a simple number such as sentencing. Tell me if blacks and whites with the same criminal history and the sales charges get radically disparate sentencing and then we'll talk. That's about as naive a statement as the gender pay gap.

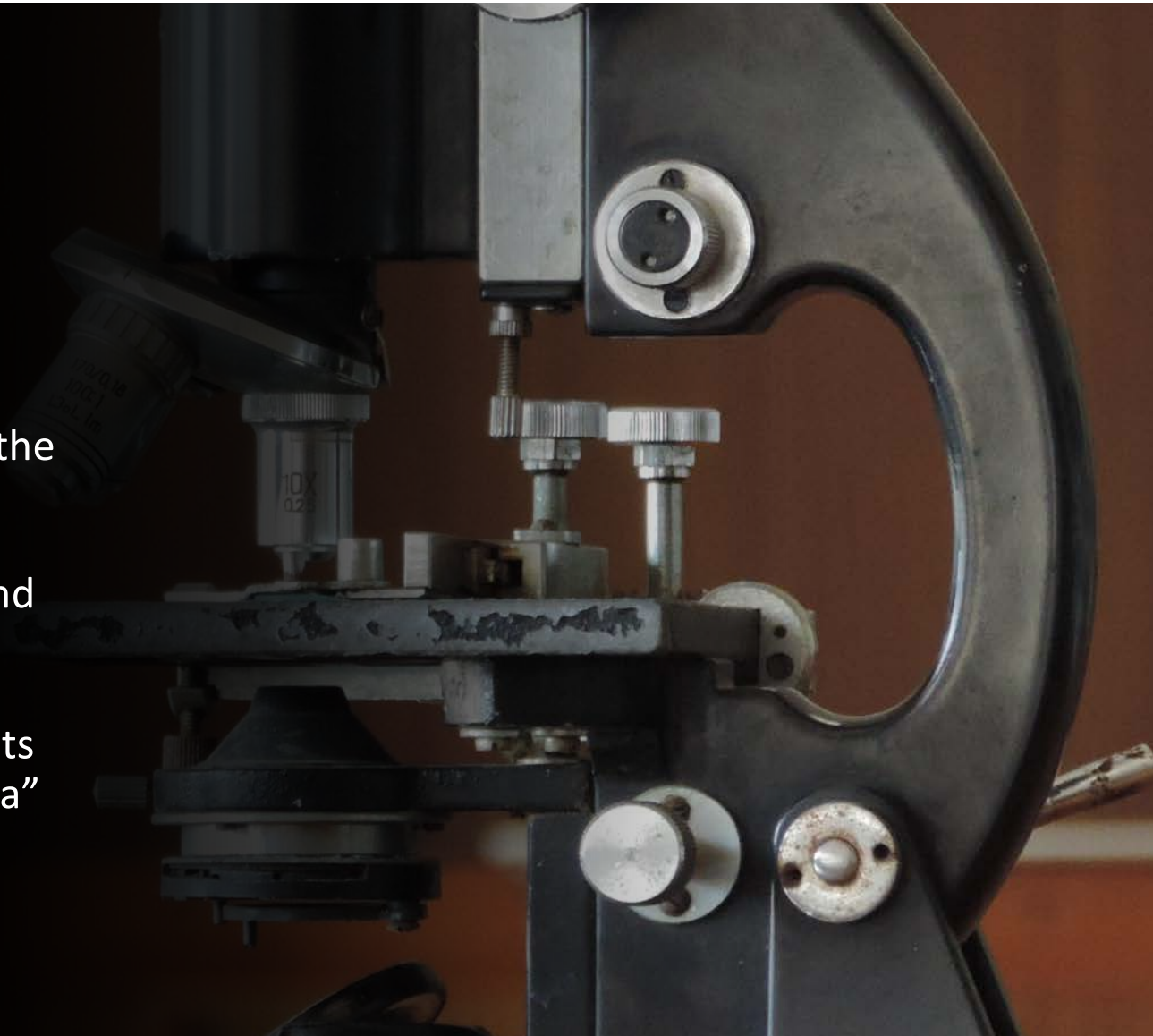
 6  [REPLY](#)

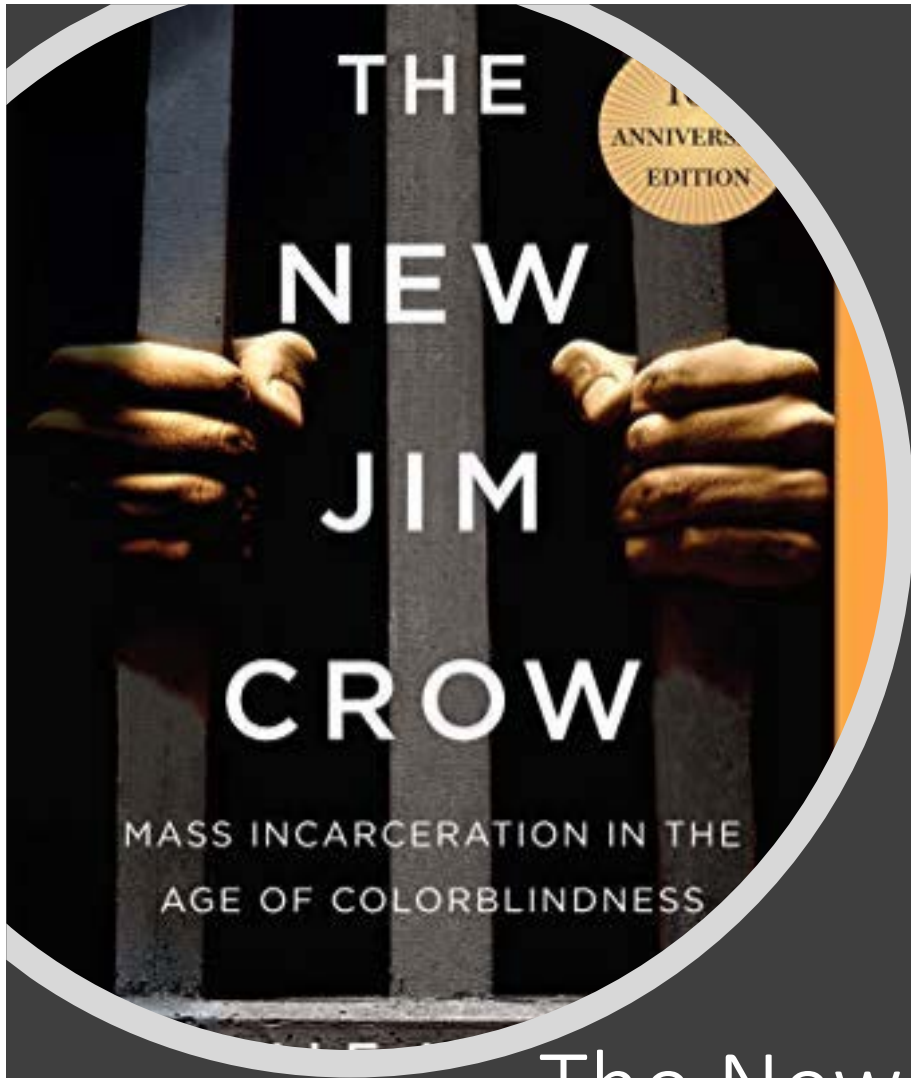


## Refutation (Sentencing)

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- "After controlling for violence in the offenders' criminal history, the difference in sentence length between Black male offenders and White male offenders was 20.4 percent, a difference of only 0.3 percentage points from the results found without the additional data" ([United States Sentencing Commission](#) 18).





“1 in every 14  
black men was  
behind bars in  
2006, compared  
with 1 in 106  
white men”  
([Alexander](#) 100)

The New Jim Crow

Hilary Brooke  
Mueller – stopped  
D’Arreion Toles  
from entering his  
own apartment  
building in 2018,  
demanding proof  
he lived there



## The counter- argument(s)

“But isn’t this just a result of Black people committing more crime?”



## Refutation ([The New Jim Crow](#))

- “People of all races use and sell illegal drugs at remarkably similar rates” (Alexander 99).
- “In the federal system, for example, homicide offenders account for 0.4 percent of the past decade’s growth in the federal prison population, while drug offenders account for nearly 61 percent of that expansion” (101).

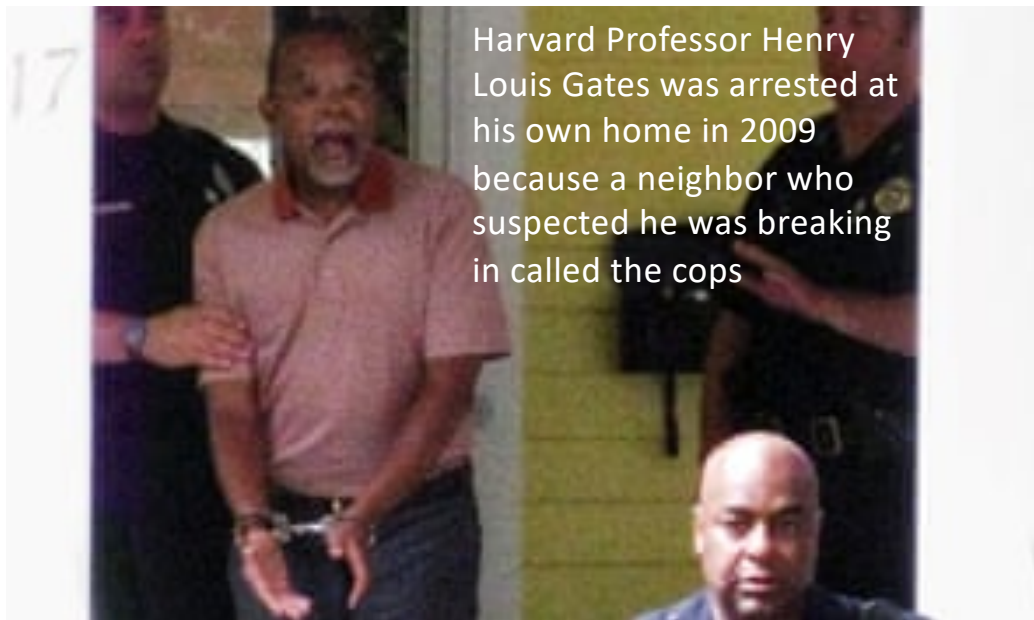


# Hiring

- “Black people account for about 12% of the U.S. population, but occupy only 3.2% of the senior leadership roles at large companies in the U.S. and just 0.8% of all Fortune 500 CEO positions” ([CBS News](#))

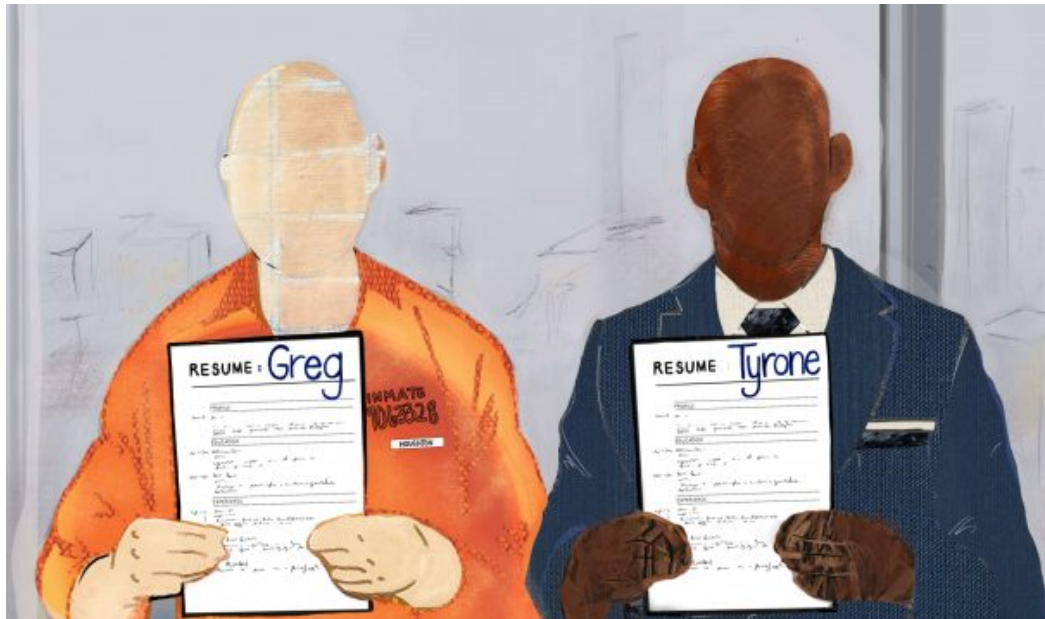


# Refuting the counter-argument(s)



- “But isn’t this just because Black people lack the proper credentials?”

# Refutation (Hiring)

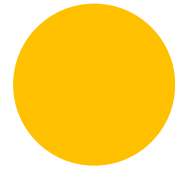
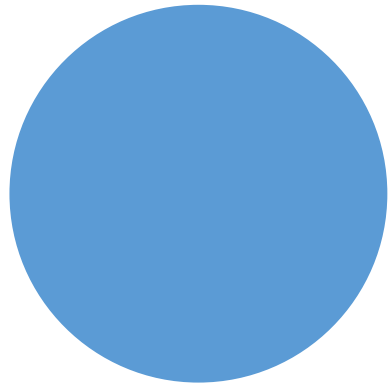


- “In one study, the researchers created resumes for black and Asian applicants and sent them out for 1,600 entry-level jobs posted on job search websites in 16 metropolitan sections of the United States. Some of the resumes included information that clearly pointed out the applicants’ minority status, while others were whitened, or scrubbed of racial clues . . . **Twenty-five percent** of black candidates received callbacks from their whitened resumes, while **only 10 percent** got calls when they left ethnic details intact.” ([Harvard Business School](#))

## Why “Reverse Racism” Isn’t Valid

- “To understand racism, we need to first distinguish it from mere prejudice and discrimination. Prejudice is pre-judgement about another person based on the social groups to which that person belongs” ([DiAngelo White Fragility](#) 19).
- “Racism—like sexism and other forms of oppression—occurs when a racial group’s prejudice is backed by legal authority and institutional control” (21).





“Okay, but *I’m* not  
racist”

# Racism without Racists

- “In contrast to the Jim Crow era, where racial inequality was enforced through overt means . . . today racial practices operate in a ‘now you see it, now you don’t’ fashion” ([Bonilla-Silva](#)).
- “Instead of name calling . . . **color-blind racism** otherizes softly . . . instead of proclaiming that God placed minorities in the world in a servile position, **it suggests they are behind because they do not work hard enough**” (Bonilla-Silva).

# Not Everyone Can be Convinced



Lynna P. • 3rd+

5d ...

Auto Transport, LTL & Truckload Freight, TMS, Warehousing

Data can be manipulated to justify almost any case one needs. The problem here is that a whole lot of useful energy is being concentrated to sell a case for white privilege, using white guilt. I do not feel guilty for anyone else's crime nor wrong doing so to accuse me of white supremacy, just because you perceive me as Caucasian, is absolutely no different than the racism you are so vehemently proliferating. For the majority of Americans, that crap ended Sixty years ago or more (for some, it was never acceptable) Our children are colorblind and we have great hearts and organizations to thank for that. Use your energy to put harmony where you believe it isn't but stop the hypocrisy.



• 8 Likes



• 8 Replies

Discussion

How would you respond to the prior post?

## Discussion

If you are white, in what ways have you contributed and are you contributing to systemic racism?



# Library Guide

## Social and Racial Justice: Find Sources: Racism, Policing, Justice System, & More

[Home](#) [Develop a Topic](#) [Find Sources: Racism, Policing, Justice System, & More](#) [Evaluate Sources](#) [Cite Sources](#)

### Search Strategies

[Use Search Tools](#) [Use Keywords](#) [Combine Search Terms](#) [Filter & Sort Results](#)

The MC Library has access to different kinds of search tools:

- **Databases:** Collections of articles, videos, images, or other types of sources. Some databases cover a wide range of subject areas or source types, while others are focused narrowly on one (e.g., only psychology journals; only images).
- **MC Library Catalog:** Shows the books, ebooks, streaming or hard copy audio and video available through the library (does not provide access to any articles).
- **RaptorSearch:** Searches across most of the information that you can access through the MC Library, including the MC Library Catalog and most of our databases

Use the tabs in the box below to find suggested databases or other search tools to use for a variety of types of sources.

MC students, faculty, and staff can access all of our search tools and online resources from on or off-campus. Use your MC ID (with the letter M) to log in.


**Research Skills & Tips:**

- [Access Library E-Resources](#)

### Find Sources about Racism, Policing, Protests, and More

[Racism](#) [Policing](#) [Voting](#) [Justice System](#) [Protests](#)

### Step 2: Find Sources

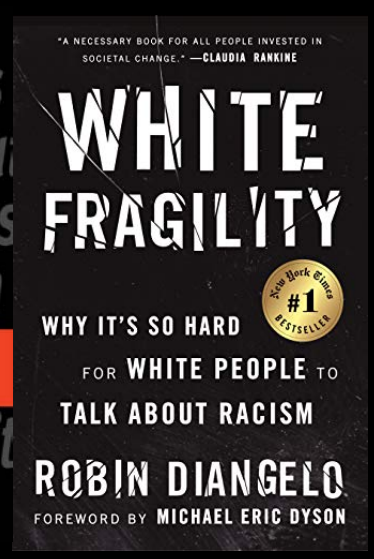
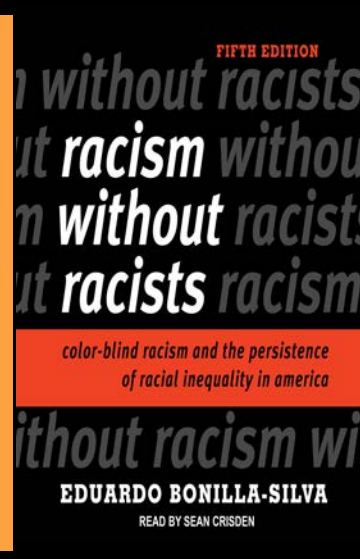
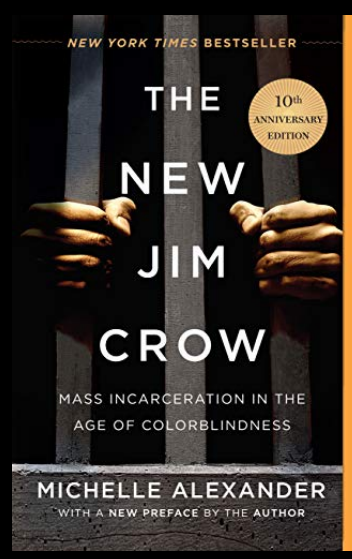
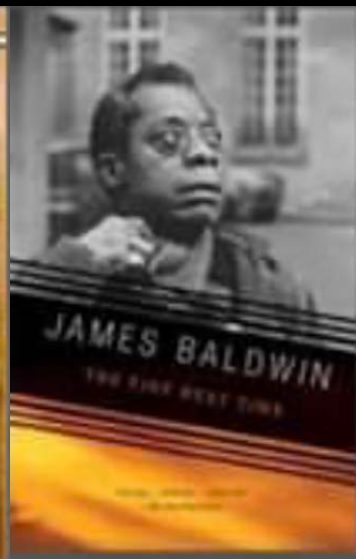
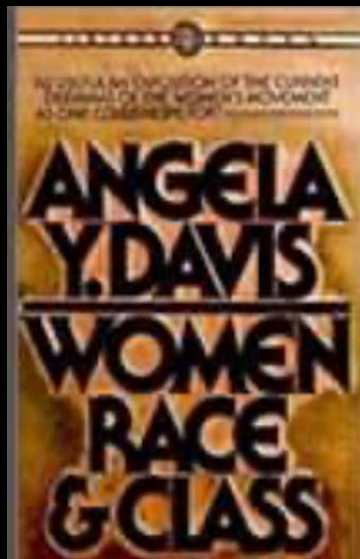


To find sources, start by thinking about your research questions and the type of information you need. For example, you may need to search in different places to find statistics than you would if you need to find images.

This page provides tips for how to develop a search strategy, and also links to search tools you can use to find specific types of sources.

As you search, consider the tips on the Evaluating Sources page, and assess each article, book, website or other source that you find.

# Further Reading (Our picks)



Stay Tuned!

Part 2 will cover:

- Education
- Voting
- Housing

# Resources

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