

Books to Read - and Other Resources

Wellesley Racial Justice Initiative - recommended books:
you can find this list at <https://wrji.org/resources>

- **Acting White?: Rethinking Race in Post-Racial America** Devon W. Carbado, Mitu Gulati
- **America's Original Sin: Racism, White Privilege, and the Bridge to a New America** Jim Wallis
- **Between the World and Me** Ta-Nehisi Coates
- **Benign Bigotry: The Psychology of Subtle Prejudice** Kristin J. Anderson
- **Disrupting White Supremacy from Within** Jennifer Harvey (Editor), Karin A. Case (Editor), Robin Hawley Gorsline (Editor)
- **Feeling White: Whiteness, Emotionality, and Education** Cheryl E. Matias
- **How to Be Less Stupid about Race** Crystal M. Fleming ('04)
- **How to be an Anti-Racist** Ibram Kendi
- **My Soul Looks Back: A Memoir** Jessica B. Harris
- **No Name in the Street** James Baldwin
- **Racism Without Racists: Color-Blind Racism and the Persistence of Racial Inequality in America** Eduardo Bonilla-Silva
- **So you want to talk about race?** Jeanine M. Olue
- **Stamped from the Beginning: The Definitive History of Racist Ideas in America** Ibram X. Kendi
- **Waking Up White - And Finding Myself in the Story of Race** Debby Irving
- **We Are Called to Be a Movement** Reverend William Barber
- **What Does It Mean to Be White?: Developing White Racial Literacy** Robin Diangelo
- **When They Call You a Terrorist: A Black Lives Matter Memoir** Patrisse Khan-Cullors and asha bandele
- **White Fragility** Robin DiAngelo
- **White Rage** Carol Alexander
- **Why Are All the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria?: And Other Conversations About Race** Beverly Daniel Tatum
- **Women, Race & Class** Angela Davis
- **The Sum of Us**, Heather McGee
- **The Whiteness of Wealth**, Dorothy Brown

WRJI is also hosting a monthly Book Club. Here's the link to find out more: <https://wrji.org/events>

WRJI is hosting a reparation workshop March 12 at noon eastern: <https://wrji.org/events>

Some recommendations from Susan Martin

- **From Here to Equality; Reparations for Black Americans in the 21st Century**
William A. Darity Jr. & A. Kirsten Mullen
- **How the Word Is Passed: A Reckoning with the History of Slavery Across America**
Clint Smith
- **Slavery By Another Name: The Re-Enslavement of Black Americans from the Civil War to World War II**
Douglas Blackmon

Some recommendations from Phyllis Knight:

- **The Night Watchman, 2021, by Louise Erdrich** -a Pulitzer Prize winning fictionalized but true tale about Ms. Erdrich's father who worked for Native American rights on behalf of his northern Minnesota tribe. The characters are deeply relatable.
- **There There A novel by Tommy Orange, finalist for the Pulitzer Prize in 2019.** The novel concerns urban Native American life specifically in Oakland, California, skills brought with them from the reservations (e.g. hunting but now with drones) and skills they are just now learning. The book is serious but with good humor.
- **"The Case for Reparations",** Ta-Nehisi Coates, The Atlantic, 2014, available online
- **The Water Dancer,** a novel by Ta-Nehisi Coates, 2019 includes interludes about slavery, the underground railroad, Harriet Tubman, and the power of memory
- **The New Jim Crow:** mass incarceration in the era of color blindness, 2010, by Michelle Alexander with a forward by Cornell West. A review of this book appears in The New Yorker January 17, 2020 by David Remnick; also an article concerning this issue titled, "The Life of a South Central Statistic," by Danielle Allen (James Bryant Conan Harvard professor and currently a candidate for governor of Massachusetts), The New Yorker, July 24, 2017

Some recommendations from Sally McMillen

- Clint Smith, **How the Word Is Passed**
- Bryan Stevenson, **Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption** and **A Perilous Path: Talking Race, Inequality, and the Law**
- Isabel Wilkerson, **The Warmth of Other Suns** and **Caste: The Origins of Our Discontent**

From Edna Travis:

- **The Color of Law** by Richard Rothstein, which I think is considered to be seminal.
- Chrystal Thomas Schivell's book about her experiences in the New Jersey schools. **Baffled by Black and White: Teaching in an Urban School and Unlearning Assumptions about Race.**

From Aida Merriweather

- **Cracking the Healer's Code, A Prescription for Healing Racism and Finding Wholeness**, Milagros Phillips. This is the link for Milagros Phillips presentation that goes with her book <https://othernetworks.org/HR!Day378>

From Jima Rice

- **So You Want to Talk About Race** by Ijeoma Oluo

From Martha Teeter:

- **My Grandmother's Hands: Racialized Trauma and the Pathway to Mending Our Hearts and Bodies**, by Resmaa Menakem

From Robin McEntire

- **Breathe: A Letter to My Sons** by Imani Perry

From Patty Henry-Schneider:

- **White Tears/Brown Scars** is a book that looks at the damaging effects of white feminism
- Toni Morrison's "**A Mercy**" is set in colonial America and is a great read bringing up lots of issues we have been discussing

From Amy Unfried:

- **The Color of Law: A Forgotten History of How Our Government Segregated America**, by Richard Rothstein (2017) Very good—documents how the U.S. Federal government, with involvement also by lower levels of government, meticulously and deliberately discriminated through legislation and regulations to prevent people of color from having anything approaching equal access to housing and jobs.

Other suggestions that came up during sessions with WRJI:

- "Reparations Are About More Than Money" By Kerry Whigham <https://www.yesmagazine.org/social-justice/2021/07/15/reparations-more-than-money>
- "**I'm Still Here: Black Dignity in a World Made for Whiteness**" by Austin Channing Brown.
- "**The Trouble with White Women**" discusses white feminism and how the movement shut out Black feminism and chose pulling the vote for white women, rather than working in solidarity
- **How to be Less Stupid About Race** by Crystal Fleming who is a Wellesley alum

Videos:

- Great short video on allyship <https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/#inbox/FMfcgzGmvBmLfMCTmCxGGssnnBSmBSD?projector=1>
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vX_Vzl-r8NY