



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.

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](mailto:antiracismbookshelf@gmail.com).

---

On Whiteness..... 4

On Racism Against and the Racialization of Indigenous Peoples..... 8

On Anti-Blackness..... 16

On Systemic and Institutional Racism ..... 19

On Terrorism and the Surveillance of Brown Bodies ..... 24

On Policing and Criminal Justice ..... 26

On Intersectionality ..... 31



■

Kathy Obear,



George Yancy, "Looking at Whiteness: Tarrying with the Embedded and Opaque White Racist Self" in (Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 2012) 152.

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>

Length: 25 pgs

[Back to top](#)

Bonita Lawrence,

(Lincoln, NE: University of Nebraska Press, 2004).

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,

(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

Patrick Wolfe, "Settler Colonialism and the Elimination of the Native" (2006) 8:4 Journal of Genocide Research 387.

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](http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/14623520601056240)



Chris Andersen,  
(Vancouver, BC: UBC Press, 2014)

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>

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 Decision,” “Identity,” and “Wahkohtowin: The relationship between Cree people and natural law.”

Available at Alberta Law Libraries: KF 8210 S56 B43

Length: various

Randi Cull, “Aboriginal Mothering Under the State’s Gaze,” in D Memee Lavell-Harvard and Jeannette Corbiere Lavell, eds,



Let's Find Out, "Episode 14: The Land at Hand" (September 27, 2017), online: Let's Find Out <<https://letsfindoutpodcast.com>>.

Lisa Monchalin,  
(Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2016).

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:

Margo L Nightingale, "Judicial Attitudes and Differential Treatment: Native Women in Sexual Assault Cases" (1991) 23:1 Ottawa L Rev 71.

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 Nat



Bruce H Wildsmith, "Getting at Racism: The Marshall Inquiry" (1991) 55:1 Sask L Rev 97.

This paper explores how the issue of racism was treated b.:p8F(ea)-335q0.00000912o.





Ijeoma Oluo,

(NY: Seal Press, 2018).

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>

Length: 248 pgs

Graham Reynolds,

(Black Point, Nova Scotia: Fernwood Publishing, 2016).

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>

Length: 202 pgs

Anthony N. Morgan, Darcel Bullen, & the African Canadian Legal Clinic, "Civil and Political Wrongs: The Growing Gap Between International Civil and Political Rights and African Canadian Life" (2015) African Canadian Legal Clinic Report.

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

National Film Board of Canada, "Journey to Justice" (2000), online: NFB <[http://www.nfb.ca/film/journey\\_to\\_justice/](http://www.nfb.ca/film/journey_to_justice/)>.

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](http://www.nfb.ca/film/journey_to_justice)

Length: 47 mins

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=-aCn72iX09s>>.



Carol A Aylward, "Take the Long Way Home":  
249.

- The Journey" (1998) 47 UNBLJ

The case began in the street of a predominantly Black neighbourhood in Halifax, and





TEDxHampshireCollege, "How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love Discussing Race: Jay Smooth" (November 15, 2011), online: YouTube  
<[www.youtube.com/watch?v=MbdxeFcQtaU](http://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](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MbdxeFcQtaU)

Length: 11 mins

Keith Wailoo, Alondra Nelson, & Catherine Lee,





Sherene Razack,  
(Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2008).

Robyn Maynard,  
(Halifax: Fernwood Press, 2017).

Delving behind Canada's veneer of multiculturalism and tolerance, 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>

Length: 280 pgs

Robynne Susan Neugebauer,  
(Toronto: Canadian Scholars' Press, 2000).

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>

Length: 374 pgs

Ontario Human Rights Commission, "A Collective Impact: Interim Report on the Inquiry into Racial Profiling and Racial Discrimination of Black Persons by the Toronto Police Service" (November 2018), Government of Ontario.

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%20FINAL%20DESIGNED%20for%20remed 3 0.pdf](http://ohrc.on.ca/sites/default/files/TPS%20Inquiry%20Interim%20Report%20EN%20FINAL%20DESIGNED%20for%20remed%203%200.pdf)

Length: 132 pgs

Michelle Alexander,  
(New York, NY: The New Press, 2012).

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>

Length: 336 pgs

Ethno-Cultural Council of Calgary,  
(Calgary: Ethno-Cultural Council of Calgary, 2011).

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.

Online access: <https://actiondignity.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/Racial-profiling-as>

Robin DG Kelley, "Thug Nation: On State Violence and Disposability" in Jordan Camp and Christina Heatherton, eds, (London and New York: Verso, 2016) 15.

This essay considers the crisis of US policing and situates it in a global context. Kelley, the





Rakhi Ruparelia, "Legal Feminism and the Post-Racism Fantasy" (2014) 26:1 CJWL 81.

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

Lee Maracle,  
Press Gang Publishers, 1996).

(Vancouver: