

#BlackTransLivesMatter Reader

Sociologists for Trans Justice

2020

Compiled by:

Committee for Advancing Trans, Non-Binary, and Intersex Scholarship

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About the Reader:

In society today, we are presented with a paradox of sorts: on one hand, there have been significant social and political advances regarding sexual orientation and gender identity. Yet, on the other hand, with increasing visibility and progress, there is also a simultaneous and almost inevitable increase in the backlash targeting the most vulnerable segments of the LGBTQ population--trans and non-binary people, and particularly Black trans and non-binary people. As of August 2020, the [Human Rights Campaign](#) has recorded at least 26 deaths of trans people in the United States due to fatal violence, the majority of whom were Black transgender women including Monika Diamond, Nina Pop, Dominique “Rem'mie” Fells, and Riah Milton. Additionally, Black trans women disproportionately experience social, economic, and political marginalization due to the lack of legal representation, barriers to gender-affirming healthcare, legal name and gender changes, physical spaces, and other seemingly neutral administrative systems that enforce narrow binary categories of gender and force people into them in order to get their basic needs met (Spade 2015). It is clear that racism, sexism, classism, ableism, homophobia, and transphobia intersect in ways that shorten the lives of Black trans people.

As outlined in the S4TJ [Statement on Black Lives Matter and Racial Justice](#), the #TransJusticeSyllabus was identified as one key area of intervention to center scholarship on the intersections of racial justice and trans justice. The #BlackTransLivesMatter Reader has been compiled as a first step in this commitment as the Syllabus undergoes revisions. The #BlackTransLivesMatter Reader by Sociologists for Trans Justice provides a list of essential readings to contextualize, examine, and center Black trans lives in Sociology classrooms and to promote scholarship on, by, and with Black trans, non-binary, and intersex scholars. We believe that the intersection of racial justice and trans justice are integral to these sociological topics of gender, race, class, intersectionality, violence, policing, and social movements, among others. The materials listed below serve as a starting point of scholarship that we recommend instructors incorporate into their upcoming semesters to discuss topics and therefore can be used as assigned readings, in-class discussions, or as part of assignments.

How to Use this Reader:

The readings, videos, and resources listed below are listed alphabetically by style and link to the source (or free PDF if available online). *This Reader should be understood as an always partial list of readings--it is meant to serve as a starting point.* As such, we also encourage further engagement with trans scholarship including use of the [#TransJusticeSyllabus](#) as well as anti-racism scholarship, as both are essential to understand and work towards trans justice.

Essential Readings:

Articles and Chapters

<p>"African Trans Feminist Charter." 2016. <i>TSQ</i> 3(1-2): 272-275.</p>
<p>Aizura, Aren Z. 2014. "Trans Feminine Value, Racialized Others and The Limits of Necropolitics." Pp. 129-147 in Queer Necropolitics, edited by J. Haritaworn, A. Kuntsman, & S. Posocco. New York, NY: Routledge.</p>
<p>Bailey, Moya. 2016. "Redefining Representation." <i>Screen Bodies</i> 1(1):71-86.</p>
<p>Bey, Marquis. 2016. "The Shape of Angels' Teeth: Toward a Blacktransfeminist Thought through the Mattering of Black(Trans)Lives." <i>Departures in Critical Qualitative Research</i> 5(3):33-54.</p>
<p>Buchanan, Blu, & Ayotunde Khyree Ikuku. 2020. "We Major: Black Trans Feminism Fights Back." In Black Feminist Sociology: Praxis and Perspectives. New York: Routledge Press. [Forthcoming]</p>
<p>Buggs, Shantel Gabrieal. 2019. "(Dis)Owning Exotic: Navigating Race, Intimacy, and Trans Identity." <i>Sociological Inquiry</i>.</p>
<p>Chaudhry, V. Varun. 2019. "Trans/Coalitional Love-Politics: Black Feminisms and the Radical Possibilities of Transgender Studies." <i>TSQ</i> 6(4):521-538.</p>
<p>de Vries, Kylan Mattias. 2015. "Transgender People of Color at the Center: Conceptualizing a New Intersectional Model." <i>Ethnicities</i> 15(1):3-27.</p>
<p>Fisher, Simon D. Elin. 2016. "Pauli Murray's Peter Panic: Perspectives from the Margins of Gender and Race in Jim Crow America." <i>TSQ</i> 3(1-2):95-103.</p>
<p>Glover, Julian Kevon. 2016. "Redefining Realness?: On Janet Mock, Laverne Cox, TS Madison, and the Representation of Transgender Women of Color in Media." <i>Souls</i> 18(2-4):338-357.</p>
<p>Gill-Peterson, Julian. 2018. "Trans of Color Critique Before Transsexuality." <i>TSQ</i> 5(4):606-620.</p>
<p>Gossett, Che. 2014. "We Will Not Rest in Peace: AIDS Activism, Black Radicalism, and Queer and/or Trans Resistance." Pp. 31-50 in Queer Necropolitics, edited by J. Haritaworn, A. Kuntsman, & S. Posocco. New York, NY: Routledge</p>
<p>Graham, Louis F. 2014. "Navigating Community Institutions: Black Transgender Women's Experiences in Schools, the Criminal Justice System, and Churches." <i>Sexuality Research and Social Policy</i> 11: 274-287.</p>
<p>Graham, Louis F., Halley P. Crissman, Jack Tocco, Laura A. Hughes, Rachel C. Snow, & Mark B. Padilla. 2014. "Interpersonal Relationships and Social Support in Transitioning Narratives of Black Transgender Women in Detroit." <i>International Journal of Transgenderism</i> 15(2):100-113.</p>
<p>Green, Kai M. 2013. "What the Eyes Did Not Wish to Behold': Lessons from Ann Allen Shockley's Say Jesus and Come to Me." <i>South Atlantic Quarterly</i> 112(2):285-302.</p>
<p>Green, Kai M. 2015. "The Essential I/Eye in We: A Black TransFeminist Approach to Ethnographic Film." <i>Black Camera</i> 6(2):187-200.</p>

Green, Kai, & Marquis Bey. 2017. "[Where Black Feminist Thought and Trans* Feminism Meet: A Conversation.](#)" *Souls* 19(4):438-454.

Greene, Joss. 2019. "[Categorical Exclusions: How Racialized Gender Regulation Reproduces Reentry Hardship.](#)" *Social Problems* 66(4):548-563.

Griffin, Michael. 2016. "[Intersecting Intersectionalities and the Failure of the Law to Protect Transgender Women of Color in the United States.](#)" *Tulane Journal of Law & Sexuality* 16:123.

Hattery, Angela J., & Earl Smith. 2018. "Policing Trans Bodies." Pp. 143-156 in [Policing Black Bodies: How Black Lives are Surveilled and How to Work for Change.](#) Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield.

Hayes, Eileen M. 2010. "Guys like Us: Community Membership Revisited." Pp. 148-174 in [Songs in Black and Lavender: Race, Sexual Politics, and Women's Music.](#) Champaign, IL: University of Illinois Press.

Jourian, T.J. 2017. "Fun and Carefree Like My Polka Dot Bowtie': Disidentifications of Trans*Masculine Students of Color." Pp. 123-143 in [Queer People of Color in Higher Education](#), edited by J. M. Johnson & G. C. Javier. Charlotte, NC: Information Age Publishing.

Kattari, Shanna K., N. Eugene Walls, Darren L. Whitfield, & Lisa Langenderfer-Magruder. 2015. "[Racial and Ethnic Differences in Experiences of Discrimination in Accessing Health Services Among Transgender People in the United States.](#)" *International Journal of Transgenderism* 16(2):68-79.

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Lamble, Sarah. 2008. "[Retelling Racialized Violence. Remaking White Innocence: The Politics of Interlocking Oppressions in Transgender Day of Remembrance.](#)" *Sexuality Research and Social Policy* 5(1):24-42.

Meadow, Tey. 2017. "[Whose Chosenness Counts? The Always-Already Racialized Discourse of Trans – Response to Rogers Brubaker.](#)" *Ethnic and Racial Studies* 40(8):1306-1311.

Morrison, Jill C. 2019. "[Redefining the Morehouse Man: Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity at Morehouse College in the Wake of Spelman's Decision to Accept Transwomen.](#)" *Journal of Gender, Race & Justice* 22:79.

Namaste, Viviane. 2009. "[Undoing Theory: The 'Transgender Question' and the Epistemic Violence of Anglo-American Feminist Theory.](#)" *Hypatia* 24(3):11-32.

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Noble, Bobby Jean. 2006. "Our Bodies Our Not Ourselves: Tranny Guys and the Racialized Class Politics of Embodiment." Pp. 76-100 in [Sons of the Movement: FtMs Risking Incoherence on a Post-Queer Cultural Landscape.](#) Toronto: Women's Press.

Page, Enoch H., & Matt U. Richardson 2010. "On the Fear of Small Numbers: A Twenty-first Century Prolegomenon of the U.S. Black Transgender Experience." Pp. 57-81 in [Black Sexualities: Probing Powers, Passions, Practices and Policies](#), edited by S. Barnes and J. Battle. New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press.

Poteat, Tonia, & Lourdes Dolores Follins. 2017. "Narratives of Health Among Black Trans Men: An Exploratory Intersectional Analysis." Pp. 73-86 in [Black LGBT Health in the United States: The Intersection of Race, Gender and Sexual Orientation](#), edited by L.D. Follins, and J.M. Lassiter. New York: Lexington Books.

Ridley, LaVelle. 2019. " Imagining Otherly: Performing Possible Black Trans Futures in Tangerine ." <i>TSQ</i> 6(4):481-490.
Roen, Katrina. 2002. " Transgender Theory and Embodiment: The Risk of Racial Marginalisation ." <i>Journal of Gender Studies</i> 10(3):253-263.
Ruff, Nadine, Amy B. Smoyer, & Jean Breny. 2019. " Hope, Courage, and Resilience in the Lives of Transgender Women of Color ." <i>The Qualitative Report</i> 24(8):1990-2008.
Santana, Dora Silva. 2019. " Mais Viva!: Reassembling Transness, Blackness, and Feminism ." <i>TSQ</i> 6(2):210–222.
Schueller, Malini Johar. 2005. " Analogy and (White) Feminist Theory: Thinking Race and the Color of the Cyborg Body ." <i>Signs</i> 31(1):63–92.
Smalls, Shanté Paradigm, & Elliott H. Powell. 2019. " Introduction. An ImPossibility: Black Queer and Trans* Aesthetics ." <i>The Black Scholar</i> 49(1):1-5.
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Hoston, William T. 2018. Toxic Silence: Race, Black Gender Identity, and Addressing the Violence Against Black Transgender Women in Houston . New York: Peter Lang.
Mase III, J. 2019. And Then I Got Fired: One Transqueer's Reflections on Grief, Unemployment & Inappropriate Jokes About Death . Perfect-Bound Paperback
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Duke University Press.
Stanley, Eric A., & Nat Smith (eds.). 2015. <i>Captive Genders: Trans Embodiment and The Prison Industrial Complex</i> (2nd ed.). Chino, CA: AK Press.
Stryker, Susan, and Paisley Currah (eds.) 2017. <i>Transgender Studies Quarterly</i> 4(2): The Issue of Blackness.
Tinsley, Omise'eke Natasha. 2018. <i>Ezili's Mirrors: Imagining Black Queer Genders.</i> Durham: Duke University Press.
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Buchanan, Blu. 2019. " The Regular and Necessary Practice of Black Trans Necromancy. " The Activist History Review.
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Harmony, Princess. 2016. " How White Trans Women Repelled Me From Trans Day of Remembrance. " Black Girl Dangerous.
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Novels, Memoirs, and Creative Writing

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King, Nia. 2014. [Queer and Trans Artists of Color: Stories of Some of Our Lives](#). CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform.

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Videos

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Resources

BGD Project	Homeless Black Trans Women Fund
Black AIDS Institute	Kween Culture Initiative
Black and Pink	LGBTQ Freedom Fund
Black LGBTQIA + Migrant Project	Marsha P Johnson Institute
Black Queer & Intersectional Collective	National Black Justice Coalition
Black Trans Advocacy Coalition	National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs
Black Trans Circles	The B. Trans Oral History Project
Black Trans Femmes in the Arts	The Okra Project

Black Trans Travel Fund	The Transgender District
Black Transmen Inc	Transgender Gender-Variant & Intersex Justice Project
Black Visions Collective	Trans Justice Funding Project
The Brown Boi Project	Trans People of Color Coalition
Center for Black Equity	Trans Women of Color Collective
Colours	Translash Media
For the GWORLS	Transgriot