

Critical Race Theory

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Banneker-Douglass Museum
April 20, 2021

What is Critical Race Theory? The Critical Race Theory

(CRT) movement is a collection of



activists and scholars engaged in studying and transforming the relationship among **race**, **racism**, and **power**.

Critical Race Theorists consider conventional civil rights issues, placing them in a **broader perspective** that includes: **history**, **economics**, **location**, **self-interests**, **emotions**, & the **unconscious**

Founders & Early Origins



Theoretically influenced by:
Critical Legal Studies
Radical Feminism

Antonio Gramsci
Michel Foucault
Sojourner Truth

Frederick Douglass
W.E.B DuBois
Martin Luther King Jr.
& Chicanx and Black Power movements

L to R: Derrick Bell, Kimberle Crenshaw, & Richard Delgado

Foundations of Critical Race Theory

US society

Interest Convergence

Black & brown civil rights only
advance when the interests of
whites also advance

Racism is Ordinary

Racism is not an event or belief,
but a systemic and normal part of

**Critical
Race
Theory**

Social Constructionism

Race is a social invention, not biological, and changes across time and place

Intersectionality

Identities are inseparable and shape our experiences with power and oppression

These foundational understandings shape the application of Critical Race Theory

Tenets of Critical Race Theory

**Interest
Convergence**

Revisionist History

Critical Race Theory

Critique of Liberalism

**Structural
Determinism**



Interest Convergence

**Black & Brown advancement tends to occur
when interests converge with white elites.**

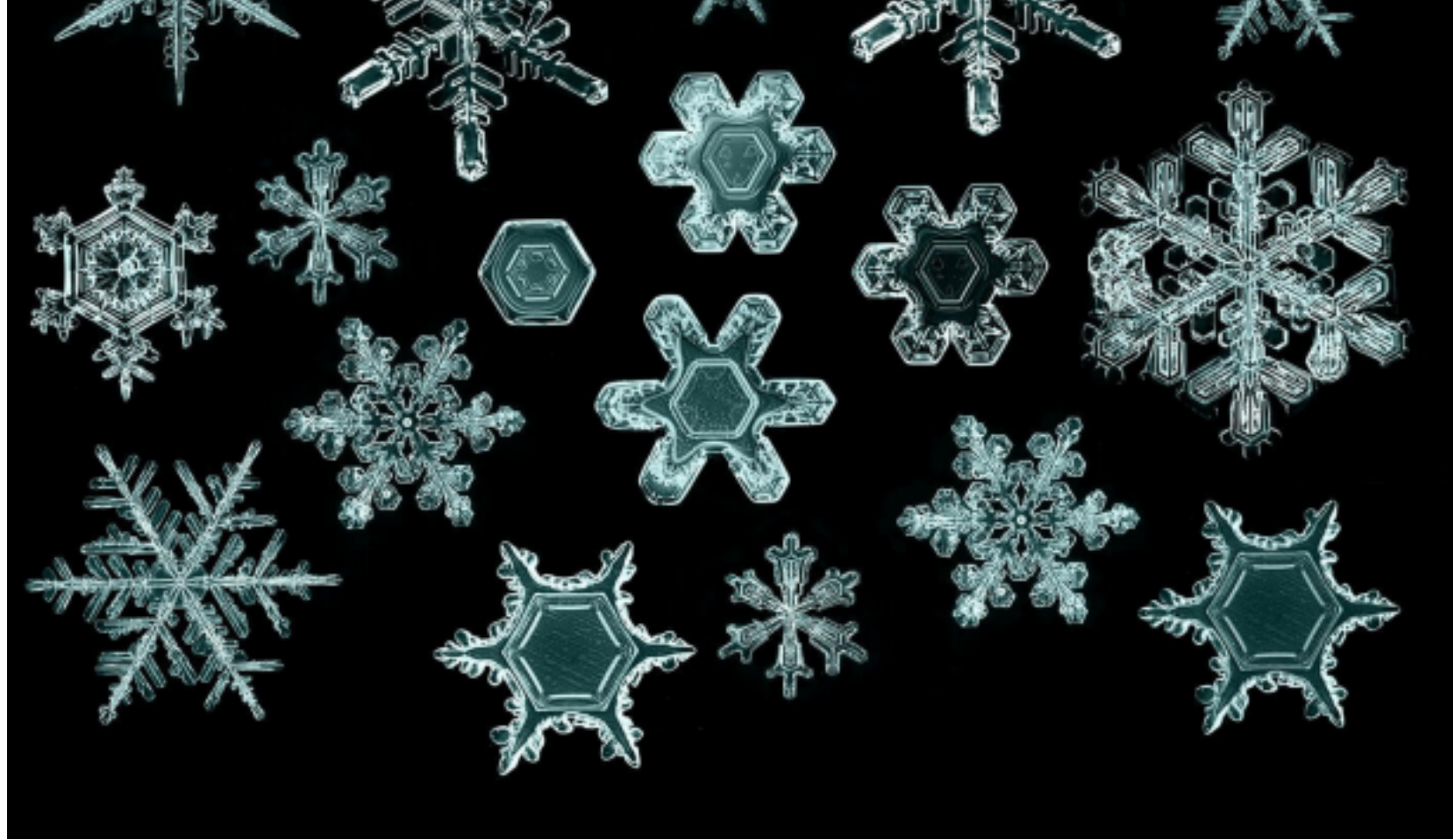
Revisionist History

Counter-storytelling and centering the realities of historically marginalized populations paints a more accurate picture of racial oppression in US history.



Critique of Liberalism

Colorblindness, rights, meritocracy, and notions of neutrality are questionable and potentially harmful to marginalized peoples.



Structural Determinism

Our system, by reason of its structure and vocabulary, is ill equipped to redress certain wrongs.

Additional CRT Components

WHITE PRIVILEGE

White people, regardless of class, sexual orientation, gender, ability, nationality, or other identities, systemically benefit from their whiteness in ways people of color do not.

INTERNALIZATION

The process by which people of color internalize messages of white supremacy.

ANTI - ESSENTIALISM

All oppressed peoples may share in their oppression, but have different needs, values, and experiences based on their identities.





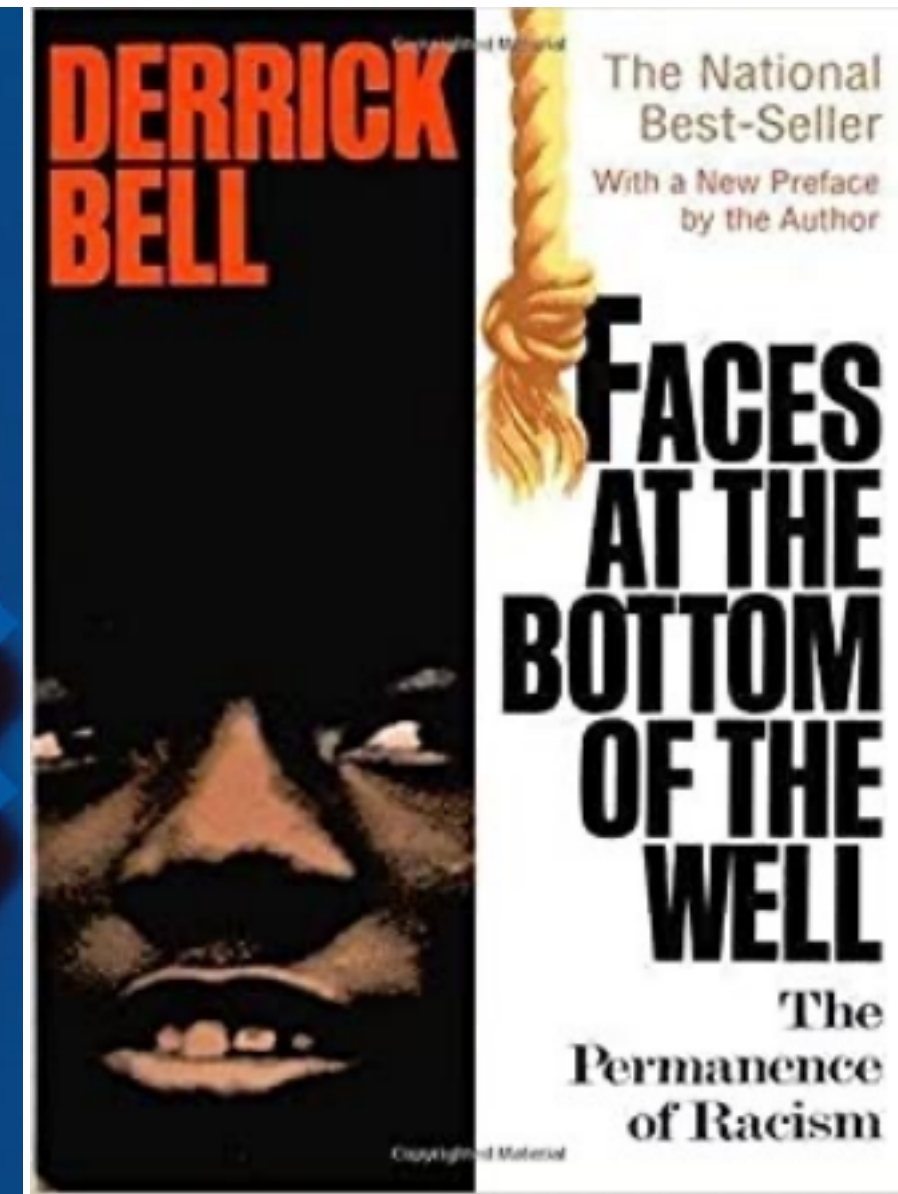
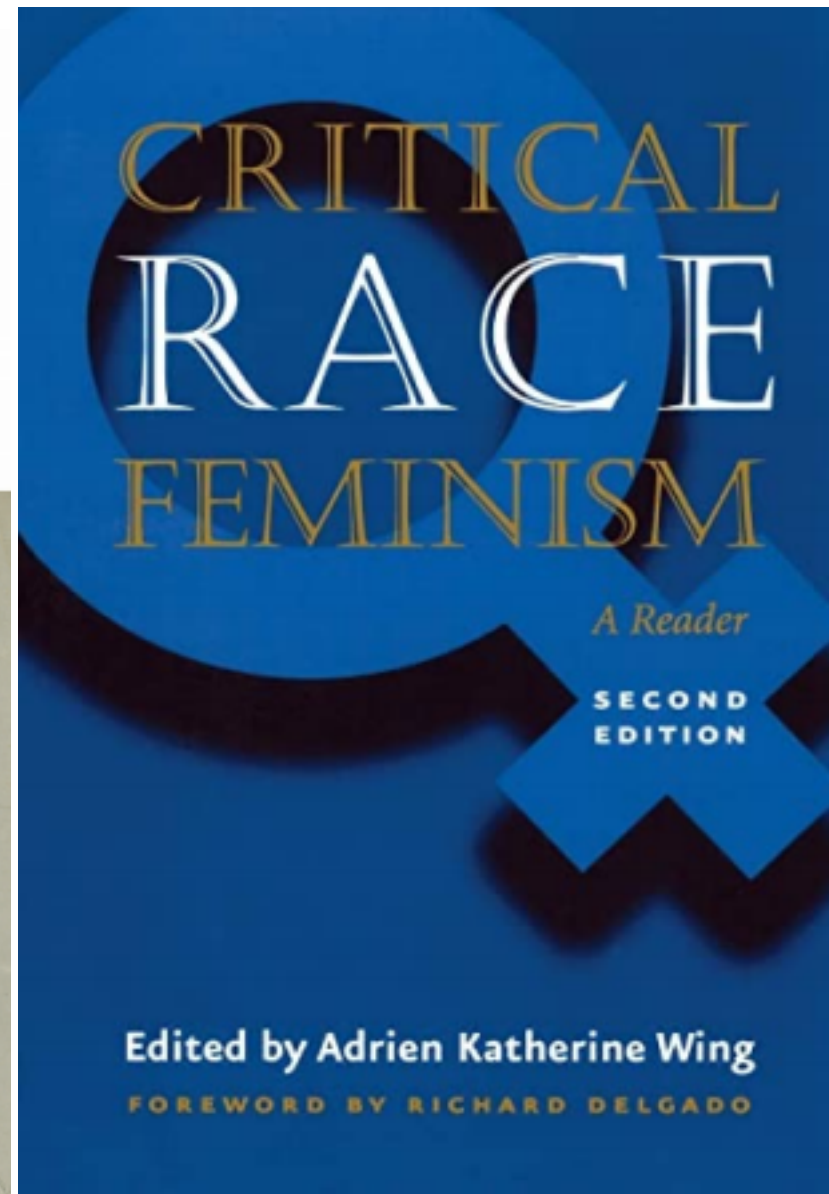
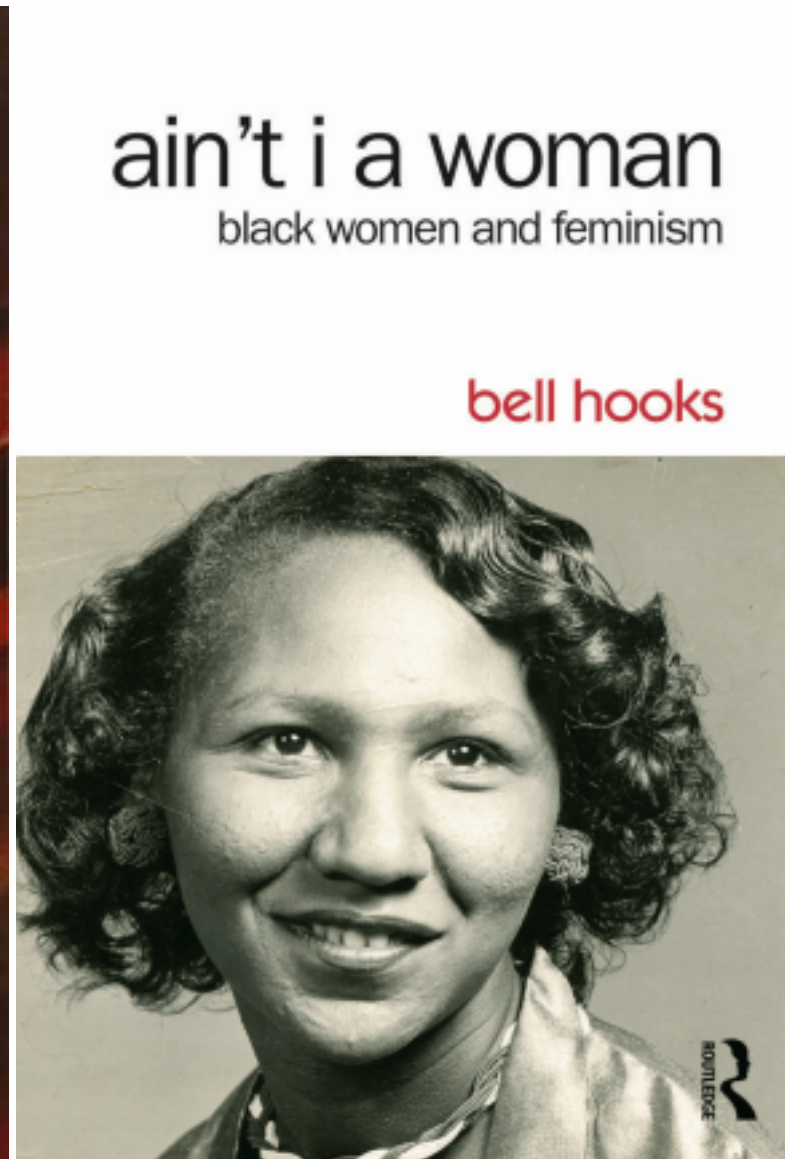
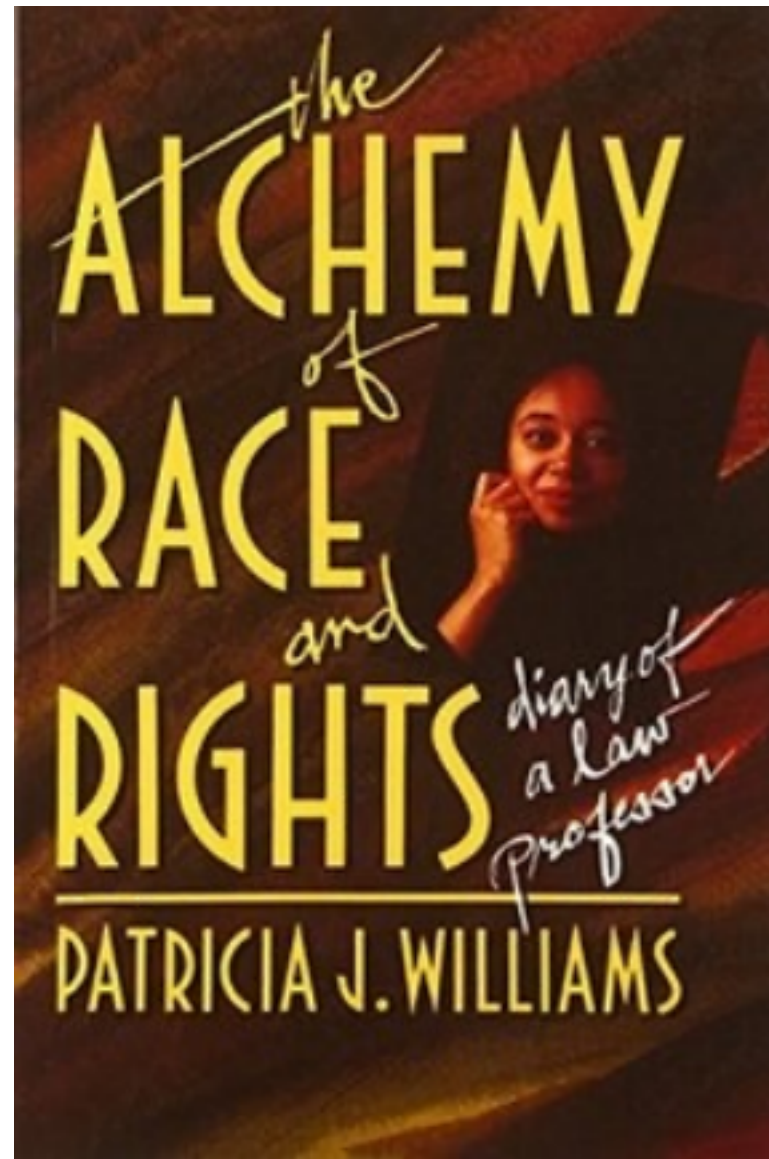
Branches of Critical Race Theory

- Lat/Chicanx Crit
- Disability Critical Race Theory
- Critical Race Feminisms
 - Asian Crit
 - Queer Crit
- Critical White Studies

CRT & the Roots of Bigotry Against Black People in the US

Suggestions for Readings

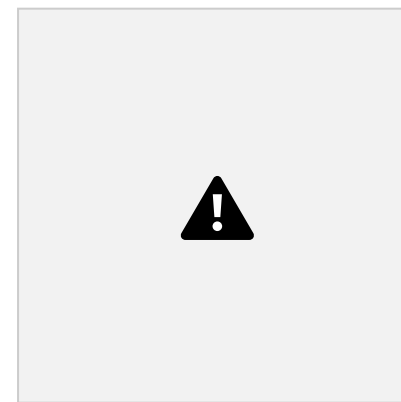




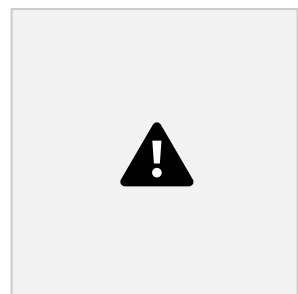
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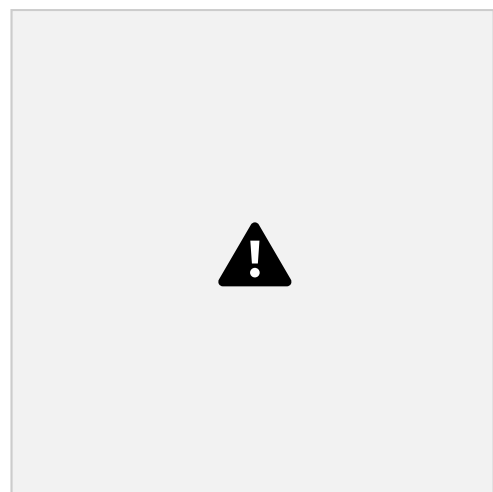
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