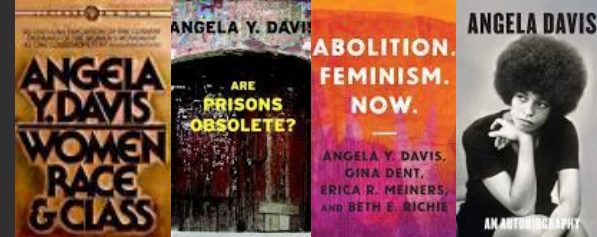


# “The Black Feminist Movement and Womanism” (1960s-80s)

- Radical Black feminism has had an outsized influence on feminist, queer, and social justice movements.
- Black feminists were key leaders in the 2nd Wave Feminist movement but ended up leaving because their specific concerns were not being addressed nor was their leadership being credited by the mainstream feminist movement.
- The **Combahee River Collective** were a group of radical Black lesbian feminists who stood at the center of radical Black feminist thought and praxis in the 1970s. In their Statement, they coined key concepts, like interlocking forms of oppression (later, intersectionality), the need to continue working with Black men, the critique of capitalism, and made the argument that the liberation of Black women will necessarily mean the liberation of all.
- Womanism, most clearly articulated by writer Alice Walker, emphasized women’s natural contribution to society. It is a social theory based on the everyday experiences of Black women.



# Angela Davis: Activist, Professor, Author, Feminist (1944-present)

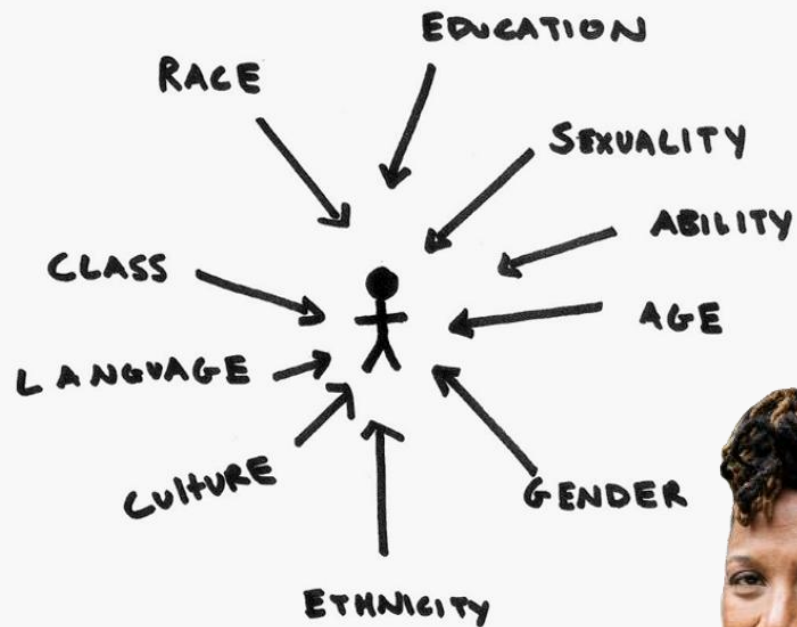


- Angela Davis received her Ph.D. from Humboldt University in Berlin.
  - After returning to the States, she joined the Communist Party and became very active in the Civil Rights movement (she was involved with the Black Panther Party, among other groups).
  - She was held in jail for over a year when guns belonging to her were used in an armed takeover of a courtroom, before she was acquitted of all charges in 1972.
  - Her work on the abolition of prisons and reproductive justice are seminal.
  - She became Director of the Feminist Studies Dept. at UC Santa Cruz in 1991.
  - Co-founded Critical Resistance, an organization to abolish the prison-industrial complex in 1997.
- In 2020, she was named in *Time's* list of the 100 most influential people in the world.



# Kimberlé Crenshaw (1959-present), “Intersectionality”

The interconnected nature of social categorizations such as race, class, and gender as they apply to a given individual or group, regarded as creating overlapping and interdependent systems of discrimination or disadvantage.



Kimberlé W. Crenshaw is a pioneering scholar and writer on civil rights, critical race theory, Black feminist legal theory, and race, racism and the law. In addition to her position at Columbia Law School, she is a Distinguished Professor of Law at the University of California, Los Angeles.

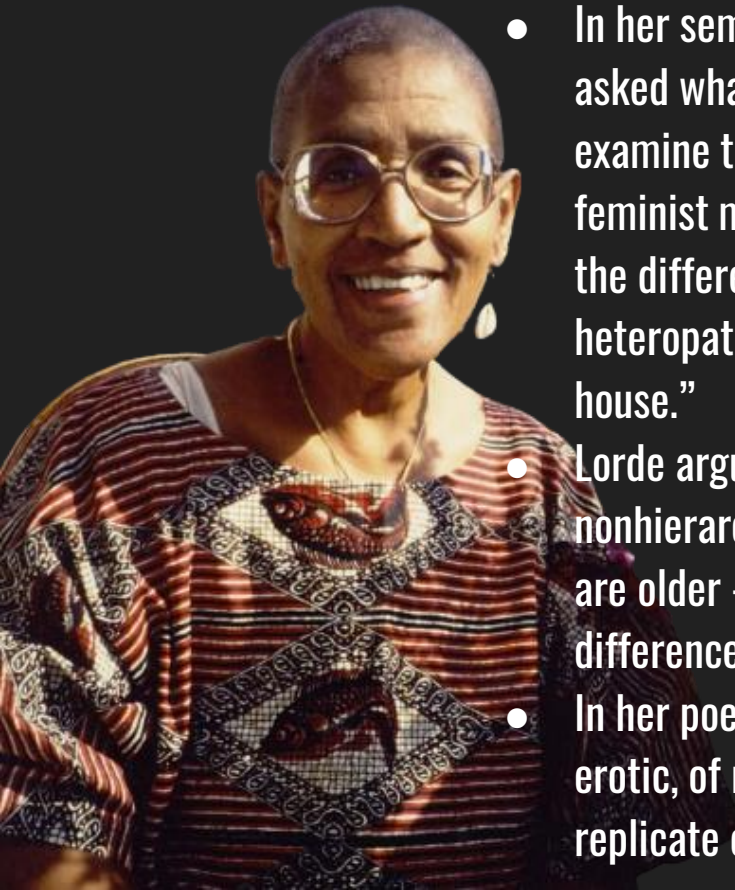


# bell hooks: Author, Activist, Feminist (1952-2021)



- Born Gloria Jean Watkins
  - Prolific author who published over 40 books, essays, and poetry.
  - Best known for her work on race, gender, and class.
  - Professor at many prestigious institutions.
  - Argued feminism is a movement to end sexism, sexist exploitation, and oppression.
  - Feminism should be inclusive of all genders (does not mark men as the enemy).
  - Must include confronting the ways women - through sex, class, and race - dominated and exploited other women.
- Women must confront their one internalization of sexism and White feminists have to confront their internalization of racism and class bias.

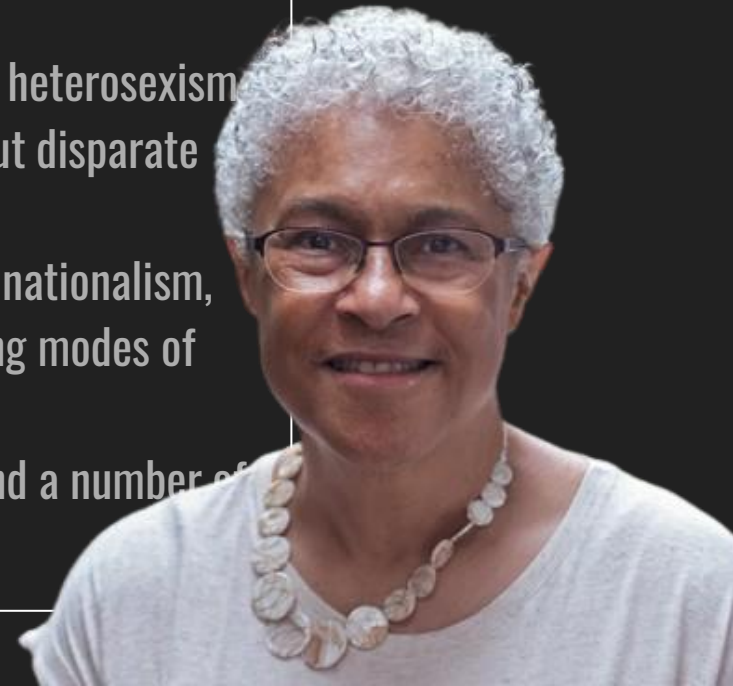
# Audre Lorde: “Black, Lesbian, Feminist, Warrior, Poet, Mother” (1934-1992)



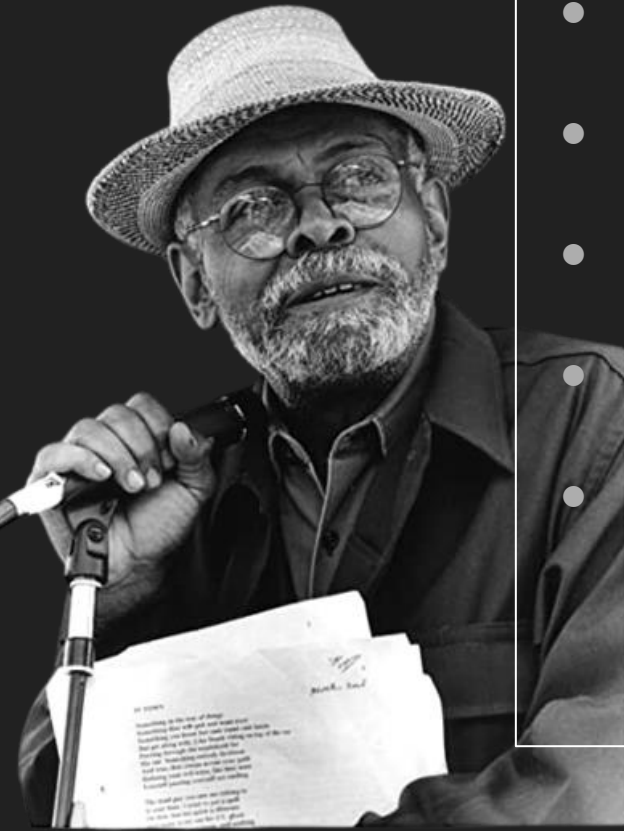
- One of the most influential radical Black Feminist and Queer theorists.
- In her work, queerness became a process of community building and of embodied pleasure.
- In her biomythography, *Zami*, Lorde destabilizes dualisms of Black and White, male and female, West Indian and American, self and other.
- In her seminal collection, *Sister Outside: Essays and Speeches* (1984), Lorde asked what it meant when the tools of a racist heteropatriarchy are used to examine the fruits of that same patriarchy. Her central contention is that the feminist movement must find new tools, new ways of accepting and deploying the differences among women in order to breakdown White, capitalist, heteropatriarchy for “the master’s tools will never dismantle the master’s house.”
- Lorde argued for an understanding of difference that was mutual and nonhierarchical: “those of us who are poor, who are lesbians, who are Black, who are older - know that survival is not an academic skill, it is learning to take our differences and make them strengths.”
- In her poetry, writings, and speeches, Lorde deconstructed concepts of the erotic, of motherhood, of anger and demonstrated ways of being that did not replicate oppression.

# Patricia Hill Collins: Scholar, Feminist, Activist (1948-present)

- Collins is an eminent sociologist and feminist scholar. She is a Professor of Sociology Emerita at the University of Maryland, College Park, the former head of the Department of African American Studies at the University of Cincinnati, and a past president of the American Sociological Association.
- Her first book, *Black Feminist Thought: Knowledge, Consciousness and the Politics of Empowerment*, was published in 1990.
- In her body of work, Collins demonstrates that racism and heterosexism are intertwined systems of oppression that have similar but disparate effects on marginalized Americans.
- Collins is a scholar of resistance, including hip-hop, Black nationalism, feminism, and queer resistance, engendered by interlocking modes of oppression.
- Collins has published more than 40 articles and essays, and a number of books.

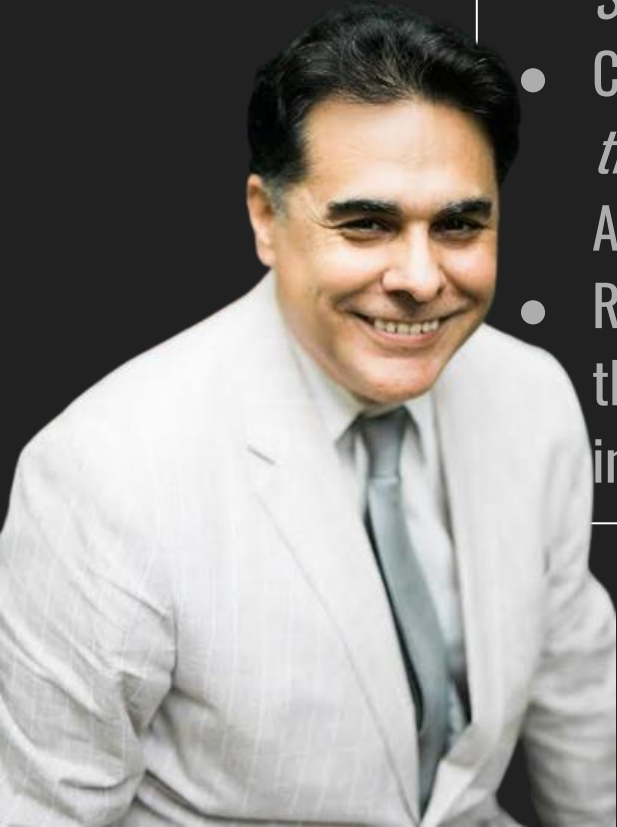


# Amiri Baraka: Writer, Poet, Music Critic, Professor (1934-2014)



- Born Leroy Jones in Newark, New Jersey, Baraka went to Howard University and then later Columbia University and The New School.
- In 1954, he joined the Air Force - he would later describe his experience in the military as “racist, degrading, and intellectually paralyzing.”
- Inspired by jazz as a child, and Beat poets as a young man, Baraka began to write poetry when he returned from the military.
- His book, *Blues People* (1963), greatly influenced people’s ideas about the importance of African American culture.
- Baraka co-founded the Black Arts Movement of the 1960s, a counterpart to Black Power.
- He converted to Islam in the 1970s, took the name Amiri Baraka, and turned toward Marxism.
- Baraka ushered in an era of Black artistic visibility through his presses, magazines, and artists’ sanctuaries, along with his work as an author, critic, and professor.

# Fabio Rojas: Scholar, Public Intellectual



- Received his Ph.D. in Sociology from the University of Chicago in 2003.
- The author of *From Black Power to Black Studies: How a Social Movement Became an Academic Discipline* (2007).
- Co-editor of magazine *Contexts: Understanding People in their Social Worlds*, published by the American Sociological Association.
- Rojas is a media commentator as well, writing articles for the *Washington Post*, *The New York Times*, and being interviewed by CSPAN and *Vox*.



# Keeanga-Yamahtta Taylor: Scholar, Author, Activist

- Taylor is the author of *Race for Profit: How Banks and the Real Estate Industry Undermined Black Homeownership* (2019) - the book was a semifinalist for the 2019 National Book Award and a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize in History in 2020.
- Taylor is a 2021 MacArthur Foundation Fellow.
- Her earlier books, *From #BlackLivesMatter to Black Liberation* (2016) and *How We Get Free: Black Feminism and the Combahee River Collective* (2018) were both award winners.
- Taylor is a contributing writer at *The New Yorker* and she has written for the *LA Times*, *Boston Review*, *Paris Review*, *Guardian*, *The Nation*, *Jacobin*, and *Souls: A Critical Journal of Black Politics, Culture, and Society*.
- In 2016, she was named one of the hundred most influential African Americans in the U.S. by *The Root*. In 2018 she was named among the top one hundred “change makers” in the country by *Essence Magazine*.



# Gloria Naylor: Novelist, Author, Producer (1950-2016)

- Naylor was born to parents who had been sharecroppers before moving to Harlem to seek new opportunities outside of the segregated South.
- She was an avid reader and immersed herself in the work of 19th-century British novelists while in school.
- After the murder of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Naylor postponed her college education to become a missionary for the Jehovah's Witnesses.
- When she returned to college seven years later she began reading Toni Morrison and other Black women novelists.
- Naylor earned her M.A. in African American Studies from Yale in 1983.
- Her debut novel, *The Women of Brewster Place* (1982), won the National Book Award and was adapted as a miniseries by Oprah Winfrey's production house.
- Naylor went on to write many more novels, serve as a professor at several universities, and found an independent film company called One Way Productions.



# Nikki Giovanni: Poet, Professor, Activist (1943-present)



- Giovanni was born in Knoxville, Tennessee and grew up in Ohio and Tennessee.
- Giovanni writes that her earliest dream was “to discover something no one else had thought of.”
- She wrote her first book of poetry and created a publication company while pursuing her master’s degree at Columbia University.
- Giovanni was one of the foremost authors of the Black Arts Movement in the late 1960s. She is also the author of children’s books, essays, other books, and a public commentator.

Her early work provides a strong, militant Black perspective.

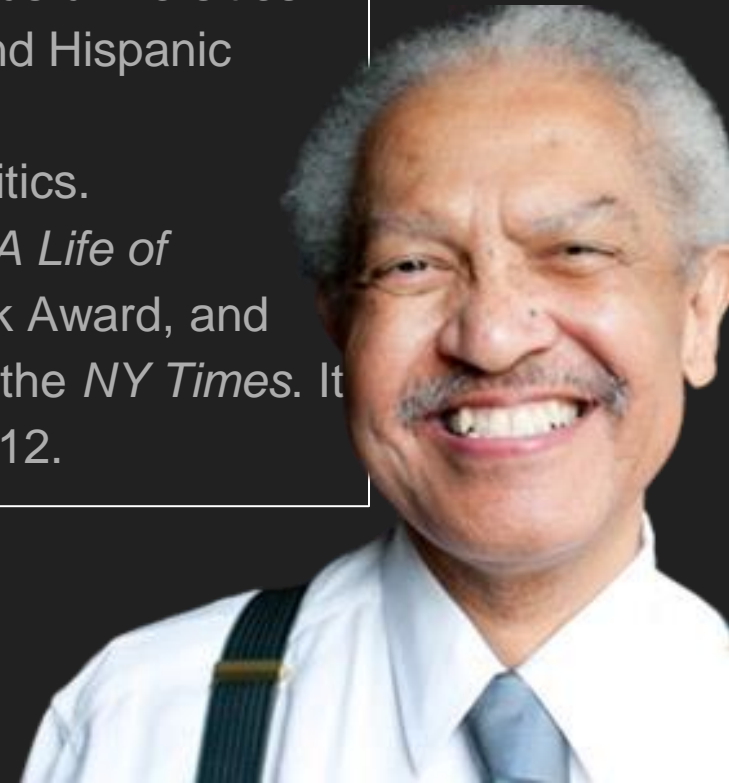
Giovanni has been awarded 7 NAACP Image Awards, nominated for a Grammy, been a finalist of the National Book Award, and authored 3 *NY Times* and *LA Times* best sellers.

- Giovanni was named one of Oprah’s 25 “Living Legends.”
- She wrote and performed the poem, “Roll Call: A Song of Celebration” at the inauguration of President Barack Obama.

She is an University Distinguished Professor at Virginia Tech.

# Manning Marable: Scholar and Social Commentator (1950-2011)

- As a young man in Dayton, OH, Marable covered the funeral of MLK, Jr. for Dayton's Black newspaper.
- He earned his master's degree and Ph.D. in History at the University of Wisconsin and the University of Maryland.
- Marable served on the faculty at many prestigious universities and was the founding director of the Africana and Hispanic Studies Program at a number of schools.
- He was very active in leftist and Democratic politics.
- Marable's biography of Malcolm X, *Malcolm X: A Life of Reinvention*, was nominated for a National Book Award, and ranked as one of the 10 Best Books of 2011 by the *NY Times*. It was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for History in 2012.



# Darlene Clark Hine: Pioneering Scholar (1947-present)

- Hine is a leading historian of the Black experience who helped found the field of Black Women's History.
- She received her Ph.D. in History from Kent State University.
- While at Purdue University, she was the only tenured Black woman in the entire state of Indiana and had to deal with geographic and intellectual isolation.
- Hine was awarded the 2013 National Humanities Medal by President Barack Obama for her pioneering work on the intersection of race, class, and gender in American history.
- She developed the concept of a “cultural of dissemblance,” the “behavior and attitudes of Black women that created the appearance of openness and disclosure but actually shielded the truth of themselves from their oppressors.”



# The Honourable Sylvia Wynter: Dramatists, Writer, Philosopher (1928-present)



- Wynter was born in Cuba and raised in Jamaica to Jamaican parents.
  - She received her M.A. from King's College, London.
  - Her first full-length state play, *Under the Sun*, was purchased by Royal Court Theatre, London, in 1958.
  - Wynter published her only novel, *The Hills of Hebron*, in 1962.
  - Her critical essays are known for illuminating the themes of the development of modernity and notions of the modern man. Her deeply influential work lies at the intersections of science, philosophy, critical race theory, and literary theory.
  - She developed Third World Literature and African and Afro-American Studies at UC San Diego and Stanford and worked at Stanford until 1997. She is now Professor Emerita at Stanford University.
- In 2010, Wynter was awarded the Order of Jamaica for her services to the fields of education, history, and culture.

# Alice Walker: Writer, Poet, Activist (1944-present)

- Walker is the daughter of sharecroppers who became deeply involved in teaching, publishing, and participating in the Civil Rights Movement.
- She is an internationally celebrated writer, who has published 7 novels, 4 collections of short stories, 4 children's books, and volumes of essays and poetry.
- Her most well-known novel, *The Color Purple* (1982) won the Pulitzer Prize in Fiction in 1983 and was adapted into a film and later a musical.
- Her writing explores themes central to Black women's lives, including agency, sexuality, healing, spirituality, and liberation from White patriarchy.
- Walker's groundbreaking work has been translated into more than 24 languages and her books have sold over 15 million copies globally.
- Her activism centers on the rights of all living things, and she has served as a jurist for the two sessions of The Russell Tribunal on Palestine.



# Evelyn Brooks Higginbotham: Eminent Scholar (1945-present)



- Higginbotham earned a Ph.D. in American Studies from the University of Rochester.
- Her book, *Righteous Discontent: The Women's Movement in the Black Baptist Church: 1889-1920* (1993), won prizes from the American Historical Association, the American Academy of Religion, the Association of Black Women Historians, and the Association for Research on Nonprofit and Voluntary Organizations.
- Along with Dr. Henry Louis Gates, Jr., Higginbotham edited the *African American National Biography* in 2008. It holds more than 4,000 individual entries.
- She thoroughly revised and rewrote the classic African American history survey *From Slavery to Freedom*. She is the co-author with the late John Hope Franklin of the 9th edition of the book (published in 2010).



# Cathy Cohen: Political Scientist, Scholar, Activist (1962-present)

- Cohen's two books, *The Boundaries of Blackness: AIDS and the Breakdown of Black Politics* and *Democracy Remixed: Black Youth and the Future of American Politics* are game-changers in the fields of political science and queer theory.
- Cohen is the recipient of two research grants from the Ford Foundation.
- Her articles have been published in numerous journals and edited volumes, including the *American Political Science Review*, *NOMOS*, *GLQ*, *Social Text*, and the *DuBois Review*.
- Cohen created and oversees two major research and public-facing projects: the GenForward Survey and the Black Youth Project.
- Cohen's work is deeply intersectional and explores the radical potential of youth of color and queer politics.



# E. Patrick Johnson: Scholar, Performer, Professor (1967-present)

- E. Patrick Johnson is a pioneer in the field of Black Queer Studies and has published widely in the areas of race, class, gender, sexuality, and performance.
- He is the founder and director of the Black Arts Initiative and Project & Artist, a nonprofit arts organization engaged in art for social change and impact.
- Johnson is the author of two books, *Appropriating Blackness: Performance and the Politics of Authenticity*, and *Sweet Tea: Black Gay Men of the South - An Oral History*.
- Johnson is currently the Dean of the School of Communication and Annenberg University Professor of Performance Studies and African American Studies at Northwestern University.
- He was inducted into the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 2020.



# Michelle Alexander: Lawyer, Advocate, Author (1967-present) on “Incarceration and Abolition”



- Alexander is a highly acclaimed civil rights lawyer. She served as the director of ACLU of Northern California where she launched the “Driving While Black or Brown Campaign.”
- Alexander is the author of the seminal text, *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness* (2010).
- Alexander’s book was called “the most important book published in this century about the U.S.” by the *Birmingham News*.
- As Adam Shatz in the *London Review of Books* puts it, “It is in no small part thanks to Alexander’s account that civil rights organizations such as Black Lives Matter have focused so much energy on the criminal justice system.”
- In the book, Alexander argues that rather than ending the racial caste system in the U.S., we have redesigned it through the system of mass incarceration and for-profit prisons.

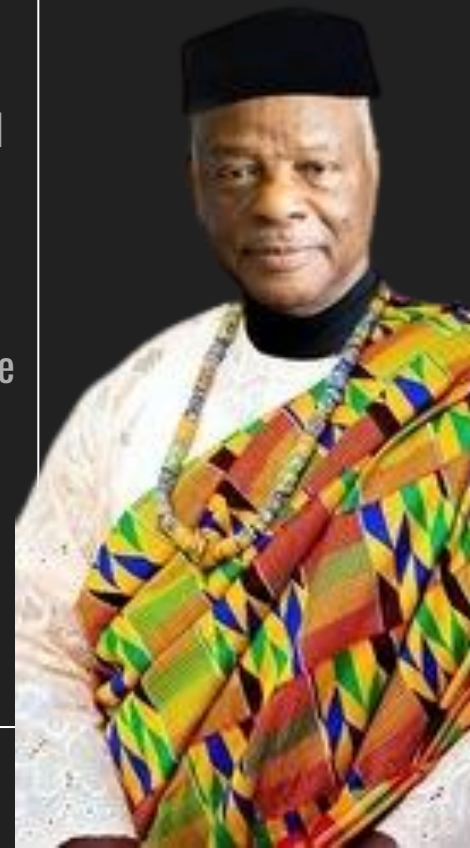
# Roderick Ferguson: Scholar, Cultural Critic

- Ferguson is a pioneer in the fields of Black literature, queer theory and queer studies, Black intellectual history, sociology of race and ethnic relations, and Black cultural theory.
- He is credited with coining the term “Queer of Color Critique” from his famous book, *Aberrations in Black: Toward a Queer of Color Critique* (2004).
- Ferguson received his Ph.D. from UC San Diego in 2000.
- He has served as an associate editor of *American Quarterly: The Journal of the American Studies Association* and served as President of the American Studies Association.
- Ferguson is currently a professor of Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality and American Studies at Yale University.



# Molefi Kete Asante: Philosopher, Scholar (1942-present)

- Born Arthur Lee Smith, Jr. in Valdosta, Georgia. He changed his name in 1976 to Molefi Kete Asante because he considered Smith a “slave name.”
- As a child, Asante worked in tobacco and cotton fields to earn tuition for school. He attended the Nashville Christian Institute for high school, where he became involved in the Civil Rights Movement.
- Asante earned his Ph.D. in Communication Studies from UCLA in 1968.
- His first study of the Black movement, *Rhetoric of Black Revolution*, was published in 1969. In his work as a scholar, Asante traveled to Africa eighteen times.
- He is often called “the most prolific African American scholar,” and has published over 100 books and 500 articles.
- Asante is known for his work on Afrocentricity, which seeks to place Africans at the center of their own narratives and reclaim Black teachings which had been marginalized by Europeans.
- The Institute named for Asante, The Molefi Kete Asante Institute, is a think-tank utilizing the theory of Afrocentricity as the foundation for all inquiries into social, health, spiritual, economic, and educational issues.

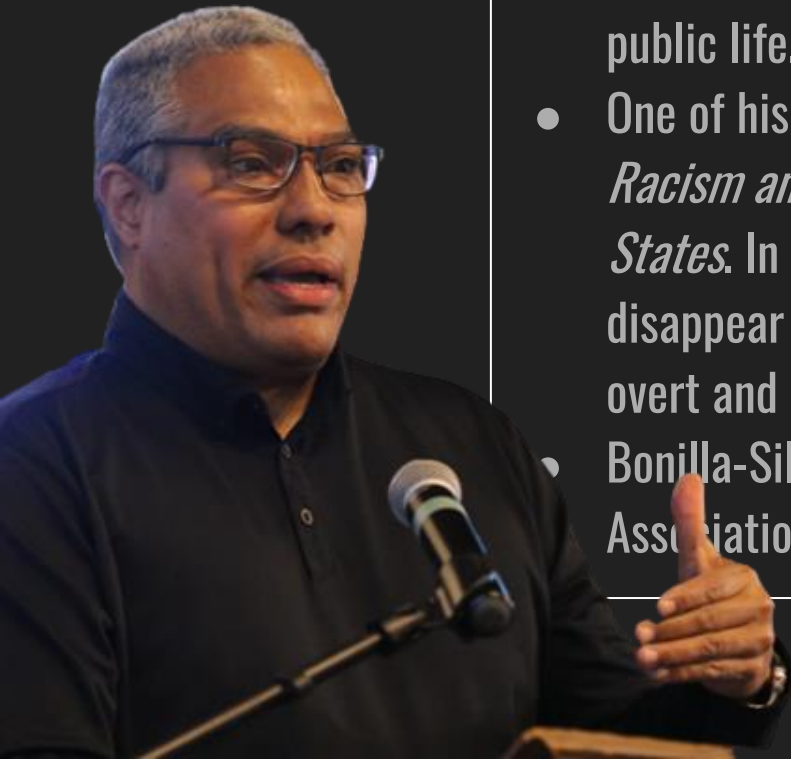


# Leslie Kay Jones: Sociologist, Public Commentator

- Jones specializes in social movements; her work draws extensively on race and gender studies, critical race theory, and media studies.
- Her more recent article, “BlackLivesMatter: An Analysis of the Movement as Social Drama,” proposes a theoretical model for the role of the Black Twitter counterpublic in mediating the framing of the #BlackLivesMatter protests.
- Her current work is on Black women forming intellectual salons through online social media.
- On 2/3/23, Jones published an opinion essay on “What’s Really Behind Florida’s Attack on African American Studies” on CNN.



# Eduardo Bonilla-Silva: Sociologist (1962-present)



- Bonilla-Silva was born in Pennsylvania to a family of intellectuals; he was educated in Puerto Rico.
- He received his Ph.D. in Sociology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1993.
- Bonilla-Silva is best known for researching the role of race in public life.
- One of his best-selling books is *Racism without Racists: Colorblind Racism and the Persistence of Racial Inequality in the United States*. In it, he argues that systemic racism in the U.S. did not disappear after the Civil Rights Movement, but merely became less overt and harder to identify.
- Bonilla-Silva served as the president of the American Sociological Association in 2018.

# Tiffany E. Barber: Scholar, Curator, Writer

- Barber is an award-winning, internationally-recognized scholar, curator, and critic whose writing and expert commentary appears in academic journals, popular media outlets, and documentaries.
- Her work spans the fields of abstraction, dance, fashion, feminism, film, and the ethic of representation and focuses on the artists of the Black diaspora working in the U.S. and the broader Atlantic world.
- Her latest curatorial project is called *Curating at the End of the World*, a collaboration with Reynaldo Anderson and Stacey Robinson of the Black Speculative Arts Movement, hosted by New York LiveArts.
- Barber currently teaches at UCLA.





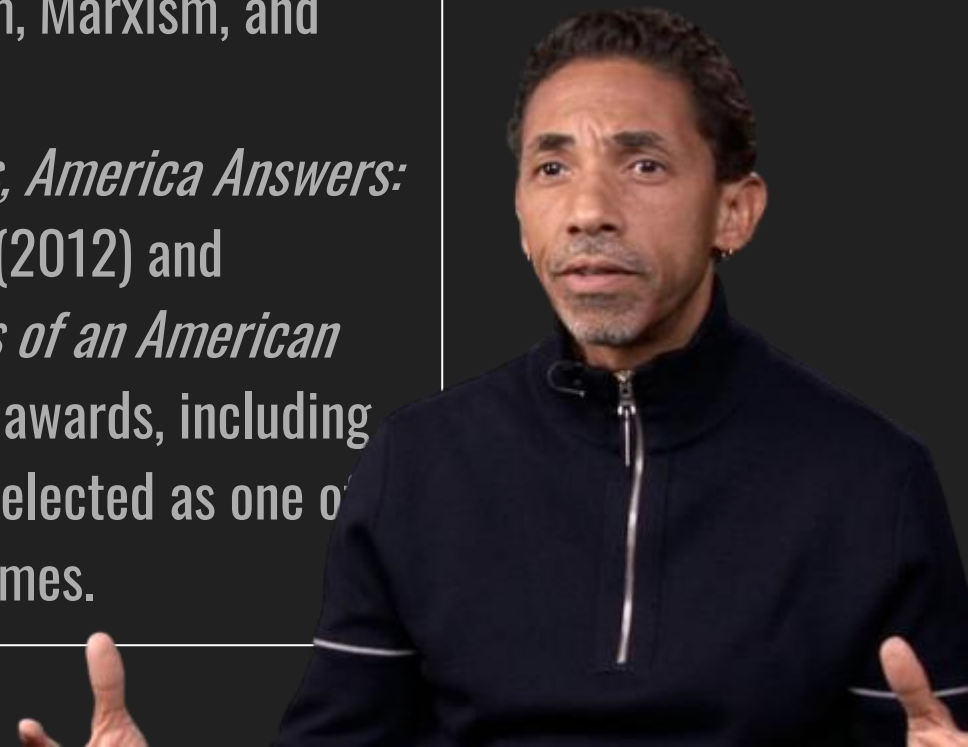
# Ta-Nehisi Coates: Author, Journalist (1975-present) and “the Argument for Reparations”

- Coates’ father, William Paul Coates, was a Vietnam War veteran, former Black Panther, publisher, and librarian. He founded and ran Black Classic Press. His mother, Cheryl Lynn Coates, was a teacher.
- Ta-Nehisi Coates worked as a reporter at a number of different publications, including *The Atlantic*, where his blog became popular and influential.
- His writing on race won a number of awards and catapulted him into mainstream culture as one of the most important American thinkers on the issue.
- In his article, “The Case for Reparations,” Coates argues that “virtually every institution with some degree of history in America, be it public or private, has a history of extracting wealth and resources out of the African American community.”
- He is the author of numerous books, many of them *New York Times* bestsellers and is the winner of the 2015 National Book Award.



# Robin D.G. Kelley: Historian, Public Intellectual

- At the center of Kelley's work is a focus on labor. His work brings together the history of social movements, the African Diaspora and Africa, Black intellectuals, music, visual culture, history, urban studies, poverty studies, colonialism, race, Surrealism, Marxism, and nationalism.
- Kelley's books include *Africa Speaks, America Answers: Modern Jazz in Revolutionary Times* (2012) and *Thelonious Monk: The Life and Times of an American Original* (2009), that received many awards, including the PEN Open Book Award and was selected as one of the Top 100 Books of 2009 by NY Times.



# Barbara J. Fields: Historian (1947-present)

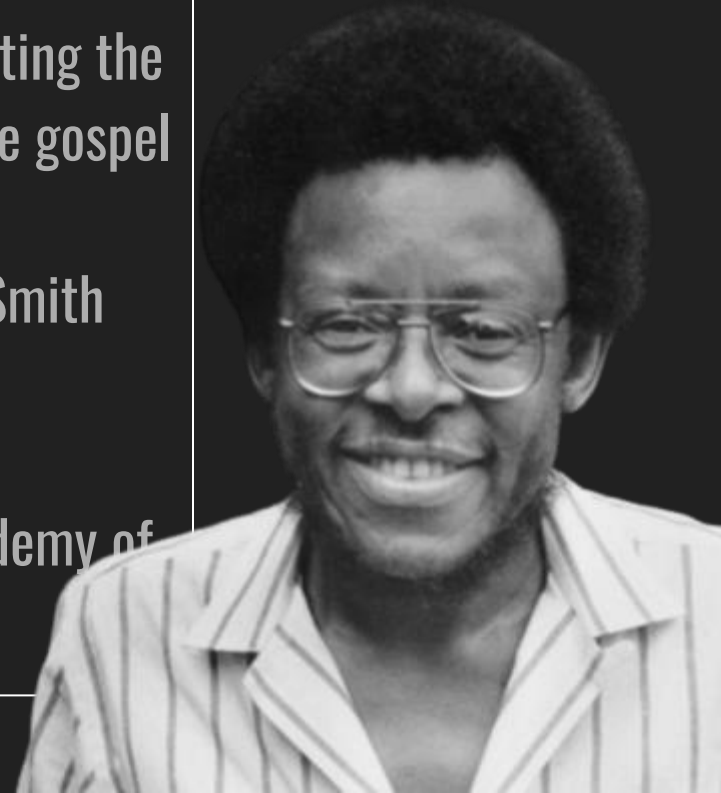


- Fields was the first Black woman to receive tenure at Columbia University. She has taught at Columbia, Northwestern, the University of Michigan, and the University of Mississippi.
- Her 1990 essay, “Slavery, Race, and Ideology in the United States of America,” was seminal in the fields of history and race studies.
- Fields’ 2012 book that she wrote with her sister, *Racecraft: The Soul of Inequality in American Life*, argues that race is a product of racism; that racism is an ideology and a way of understanding social reality, and that racecraft in American society serves to obfuscate the dynamics of inequality. Fields was a MacArthur Fellow Program honoree.

Barbara J. Fields

# James Cone: Theologian (1938-2018)

- Cone is best known for his advocacy of Black theology and Black Liberation theology.
- His 1969 book, *Black Theology and Black Power*, was groundbreaking in these spheres. In it, he argued that the Black Power - defined as Black people asserting the humanity that White supremacy denied - was the gospel of America.
- Cone taught theology and religion at Philander Smith College, Adrian College, and Union Theological Seminary.
- He was elected as a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 2018.



# Jacquelyn Grant: Theologian and Methodist Minister (1948-present)

- Grant is one of the founders of Womanist Theology. Womanist theology addresses theology from the viewpoint of Black women, reflecting on their perspectives and experiences.
  - Grant was the first Black woman to earn a doctoral degree in systemic theology at Union Theological Seminary.
  - She was very involved in the fight for women's equality, convening a meeting of female ministers at the 1976 General Conference.
- Grant founded the Center for Black Women in Church and Society in Atlanta in 1981.

