



ANTI RACISM

A STUDY RESOURCE

STILLP•INT

A MAGAZINE IN THE EYE OF THE STORM

ANOTHER WORLD IS POSSIBLE

Around the world a movement for Black lives is growing. Many individuals and organizations have responded by producing reading and resource lists for those who understand the urgency of deepening knowledge about the history and prevalence of racism, in order to confront, understand, and transform the present.

Members of the *Stillpoint Magazine* team and community have come together to join the party. With this resource we offer you five points of entry to the broad area of study that is antiracism, a topic that connects across disciplines and research areas in ways that are often obscured.

We hope that in this resource you find avenues which connect with or extend from your own areas of interest bringing you occasions for revelation, reflection, recognition and joy.

— June 2020

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- MIHIR SHARMA

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R A D I C A L C O A L I T I O N S

[MIHIR
SHARMA]

SEX, RACE AND CLASS - SELMA JAMES

James' elegant pamphlet emerges from struggles in coalitions of workers, women, and migrants on both sides of the Atlantic. Her words are grounded in praxis, chiseled by the quotidian contradictions that she encounters, and rendered accessible for all those who seek answers to questions around building coalitions with people from different political locations and situations.

> Available as a [PDF pamphlet here](#). 14 pages. Originally published 1975.

BEYOND CONTAINMENT: AUTO-BIOGRAPHICAL REFLECTIONS, ESSAYS & POEMS - CLAUDIA JONES

This collection is an archive of inspiration. If you haven't read Claudia Jones' work, you can pick this up and read any genre you like. Most works are as poetic as they are political, as urgent as they are results of slow rumination.

> Book (2011). 241 pages. Ayebia Clarke Pub.

BLACK, WHITE, AND IN COLOR: ESSAYS ON AMERICAN LITERATURE & CULTURE - HORTENS J. SPILLERS

I love reading psychoanalytic texts, and I love reading critical race theory and anti-racist works. Reading Spillers was a dream come true (no pun intended) and started a journey of exploring how race, gender, and not just class can be examined analytically.

> Book (2003). 570 pages. University of Chicago Press.

THE BLACK CHALLENGE TO THE CAPITALIST STATE - (A PANEL WITH) CHARISSE BURDEN-STELLY

Burden-Stelly's work has helped me think through the connections between state responses to Black radicalism and the connection to anti-communism in the U.S. context. This panel provides one of the best alternatives to afro-pessimist and liberal analyses of anti-Blackness, rooted in historical materialism. As a recent article put it, to be Black was to be Red at the height of McCarthyism.

> Available on [YouTube here](#) (Red May TV 2018)

ABOUT MIHIR SHARMA
Mihir wrote for *Stillpoint Magazine* Issue 003: FALLOW in December 2019. He is a writer and lecturer based in Berlin & Bayreuth, Germany, and St. Louis, Missouri.

FASHION FOR THE NEW WORLD

[RASHIDA
TAYLOR]

"IF YOU DON'T BRING NO GRITS, DON'T COME": CRITIQUING A CRITIQUE OF PATRICK KELLY, GOLLIWOGS, AND CAMP AS A TECHNIQUE OF BLACK QUEER EXPRESSION - SEQUOIA BARNES

Sequoia Barnes is a fashion scholar/artist who examines the semiotic and socio-political capabilities of making and wearing clothes. Her work has an intersectional lens with interdisciplinary resourcefulness, looking to Black cultural studies, art/design theory, queer theory, philosophy, sociology, and more to explore fashion. *If You Don't Bring No Grits, Don't Come* is her first publication on a continuous, years-long study of the late designer Patrick Kelly. In the publication Sequoia focuses on how Kelly complicated our sense of fashion through his use of racial kitsch and camp aesthetics, not only to create something consumable, but to comment on the subjection and oppression of the Black body as a socio-historical consumable. Sequoia also uses Kelly's work to question why overtly expressing one's queerness through camp has not been seen as a viable form of Black expression in the mainstream narrative of Black creativity.

Sequoia has also recently started posting fashion imagery accompanied by accessible breakdowns, detailing fashion history, theory and her own personal musings on fashion and style, on her Instagram account.

**IBRAHIM KAMARA — STYLIST &
FASHION EDITOR — AT — LARGE
(ID / ART AND COMMERCE)**

You can't see an Ib image and not know it. Bright colours, unique, gravity-defying shapes, gender play, STYLE, nods to culture and expression clearly drawing inspiration from all over the Black Atlantic*.

* See: Paul Gilroy's *The Black Atlantic: Modernity and Double Consciousness* (1993). Verso.

> [Available as a downloadable PDF here.](#) 12 pages. Open Cultural Studies (2017).



> [Visit profile here.](#)

> [Visit profile here.](#)



THEO WHITE - STYLIST AND CREATIVE DIRECTOR

Theo White's work focuses on male sexuality and masculinity, particularly within Black communities. He is also co-founder of *6ft* Magazine:

6FT MAGAZINE

Born out of the coronavirus lockdown, and named after the 2 metre social distancing rule, *6ft* is a print magazine full of work created during lockdown from various artists, mainly Black, Brown and Indigenous members of the LGBTQIA+ community. With solidarity, sustainability and hope as the key themes, the zine is a celebratory one – publisher Theo White and Editor-in-chief Zezi Ifore want it to spark joy. One hundred per cent of proceeds will go towards the [UK QTIBIPOC Emergency Relief & Hardship Fund](#) – an appeal set up to raise short-term support for queer, trans and intersex, Black, Indigenous, People of Color currently living in the UK feeling the effects of the coronavirus lockdown.

> [Visit portfolio here.](#)



> [Preorder here.](#)

> [Preview at vogue.co.uk here.](#)

VIRGINIE P. MOREIRA - HAIR STYLIST

Hair and headpieces as expression, character, conversation, architecture. I particularly love this picture, captioned:

AwaLisa.

She understands her position inside and out of her inhabited shell.

It's obsolete.

She embodies the Black vacuum.

Only to present the spearing light of her grace.

My MonaLisa.

> [Visit portfolio here.](#)



BABES OF NOLLYWOOD - INSTAGRAM

High fashion (mostly 90s and early 2000s) and personality from Nigeria's film industry. Interesting to see how the "villains" in each film wore different brands/were styled differently to the heroine protagonists.

> [Visit profile here.](#)



MOWALOLA - DESIGNER

Mowalola is a UK-based designer, originally from Nigeria. Party. Colours. Rule-breaking shapes - leather cut like you've never seen it before. Nigeria, punk, music, sexual freedom, pleasure, love, heartbreak. Describing her work as unapologetically Black and pan-African, Mowalola wants you to do what you want...

> [Visit profile here.](#)



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ABOUT RASHIDA TAYLOR

Rashida is Contributing Fashion Editor for *Stillpoint Magazine*, writer and Social Media Whisperer based in London, encouraged by artistic expressions of the Black experience in all its various forms.

C R I T I C A L W H I T E N E S S

[DR. EDNA
BONHOMME]

INSTITUTIONALIZED RACISM: A SYLLABUS - CATHERINE HALLEY

A rich collection of JSTOR articles brought together to provide context to the protests that broke out after George Floyd's murder. Covers history of protest in the US, police brutality, and ethical considerations of video documentation.

> [View here.](#)

WHITE PRIVILEGE: UNPACKING THE INVISIBLE KNAPSACK - PEGGY MCINTOSH

An essay which covers the daily effects of, and difficulties in trying to discuss, white privilege, and a call to "acknowledge [the] colossal unseen dimensions" of white supremacy at all levels.

> [Available as PDF via *racialequitytools.org* here.](#)

SO YOU WANT TO TALK ABOUT RACE - IJEOMA OLUO

Ijeoma Oluo instigates honest conversations about race in this generous yet direct book on racism, attempts at allyship, and issues such as affirmative action.

> Book (2018). 256 pages. Basic Books.

HOW TO BE AN ANTIRACIST - IBRAM X. KENDI

In this book, Ibram X. Kendi outlines a range of anti-racist ideas, from the personal to the systemic, combining ethics, law, history, and his own personal story.

> Book (2019). 320 pages. Random House.

WHY I'M NO LONGER TALKING TO WHITE PEOPLE ABOUT RACE - RENI EDDO-LODGE

An essential read for anyone needing to understand race and racism in the UK, Eddo-Lodge's 2017 book of essays is a brilliant uncovering of the oft-ignored conversation around racism in British culture. See also her accompanying podcast under the title *About Race*.

> Book (2018). 261 pages. Bloomsbury Publishing.

> [Podcast available here.](#)

ABOUT DR. EDNA B O N H O M M E

Edna wrote for *Stillpoint Magazine* Issue 003: FOLLOW in December 2019. She is a historian and Postdoctoral Fellow at the Max Planck Institute for History of Science.

RACISM AND ECOLOG Y

[ANNE
MARIE
WIRTH
CAUCHON]

In December, 2019, Stillpoint Magazine conducted the symposium Racism and Ecology. These are a few of the research materials we turned to, which continue to shape our understanding of the strong ties between the growing, global Black Lives Matter movement we're supporting today, and the urgent need for ecological justice.

A BILLION BLACK ANTHROPOCENES OR NONE - KATHRYN YUSOFF

From the University of Minnesota Press's "Forerunners: Ideas First" series, in her breathtakingly brief *A Billion Black Anthropocenes or None* Professor Kathryn Yusoff works "to challenge the racial blindness of the Anthropocene" and illuminates the racialized elements of the extractive economies that have altered landscapes and climate, and have continued to exploit the majority of the world's population, especially those racialized as 'non-white', where whiteness is overlooked and taken as a universal standard. This racialized and widely exploitative history embedded in the current epoch is, according to Yusoff, also embedded in the discipline of geology itself, and what's more, is uncritically embedded within this era's characterization as the Anthropocene. Yusoff's proposal is that what's needed is the end of the world: that is, the end of a world of inequity and exploitation, which might allow for a new one to emerge.

> Book (2018).
Available to read
online here. 130
pages. University
of Minnesota
Press.

IS RACISM AN ENVIRONMENTAL THREAT? - GHASSAN HAGE

From Polity Press's "Debating Race" series, Professor Ghassan Hage's *Is Racism an Environmental Threat* succinctly elaborates the ways that "racism itself exacerbates the ecological crisis," specifically emphasizing expressions of Islamophobia. Rather than identifying racism and ecological degradation as discrete phenomena, Hage argues that they are part of the same problem: unjust, extractive, exploitative, and dehumanizing global systems that degrade ecosystems, species, geographies, and even peoples.

> Book (2017).
140 pages. Polity
Press.

TRACE: MEMORY, HISTORY, RACE, AND THE AMERICAN LANDSCAPE - LAURET SAVOY

A PEN Literary Award Finalist, shortlisted for the William Saroyan International Prize for Writing, *Trace* is a lyrical tour through American history and landscape written by Lauret Savoy, the David B. Truman Professor of Environmental Studies at Mount Holyoke College. Interweaving her personal history with America's racialized past, she takes readers on a tour through the geological formations, landmarks, and place-names of a vast and varied landscape to explore the ways that race and racism shape a nation's perception of the very ground on which it stands. Among many revelations that this book offers is the marked importance of naming place. She writes: "Colonial maps and place-names reorganized space on a slate made blank—by drawing borders, by coding what (and whom) lay inside or out, by erasing." *Trace* demands readers consider what has been buried, what has been erased in the maps, and in the land.

> Book (2016).
240 pages.
Counterpoint
Press.

CLEAN AND WHITE: A HISTORY OF ENVIRONMENTAL RACISM IN THE UNITED STATES - CARL A. ZIMRING

Grounding the theoretical lines articulated in the monographs above with historical examples, in *Clean and White* Carl A. Zimring gives readers an overview of one corner of the real-world impacts of systemic racism and repressed-but-virulent racist thinking. With specific case studies and a wide variety of source material, Zimring shows how the false equation of whiteness and cleanliness meant that for centuries, among other things, environmental and urban waste was disproportionately placed in communities of color in the United States, often, specifically, in Black communities. What results is a sobering history lesson and a call to arms to re-examine even the most overlooked aspects of the ways cities, towns, and rural areas organize and manage themselves and their material existence.

> Book (2015).
275 pages. NYU
Press.

ABOUT ANNE MARIE WIRTH CAUCHON

Anne Marie is Editor-in-Chief of *Stillpoint Magazine*. She is Creative Director of the PrairieCare Institute's Center for Applied Psychoanalysis, the mother of two, a PhD candidate in English and Comparative Literature at the University of Minnesota, and the author of the novel *Nothing*.

P O E T I C A P P E A R A N C E S

[KATE
HOLFORD]

REPRESENTATIONS OF WHITENESS IN THE BLACK IMAGINATION (IN BLACK LOOKS: RACE & REPRESENTATION) - BELL HOOKS

> Essay. 14
pages. Collection
originally
published 1992.

An amazing collection of essays from a hugely important voice in radical Black & feminist literature. In this particular essay, hooks discusses how the refusal to acknowledge whiteness denies a productive articulation of racism for Black people. hooks demands that white 'allies' critically analyse their own whiteness; and reveals the historic roots, and contemporary perpetuation, of the ways that white people do not comprehend their own Otherness as perceived by the Black gaze: 'To name that whiteness in the black imagination is often a representation of terror. One must face written histories that erase and deny, that reinvent the past to make the present vision of racial harmony and pluralism more plausible.' (172)

JOHN AKOMFRAH IN CONVERSATION (WITH RUDOLF FRIELING)

> [Available on
YouTube here](#)
(SFMOMA 2019)

Visual poet John Akomfrah is one of the most respected artists working in the field of filmmaking today. Discussing Akomfrah's work *Vertigo Sea* (first seen at the 56th Venice Biennale exhibition *All the World's Futures*, curated by Okwui Enwezor 2015), this interview provides a concise insight into Akomfrah's ideas around memory, postcoloniality, and experiences of the African diaspora. Akomfrah touches on the disappearance of the "language of hospitality" in Western responses to contemporary migration; the extraordinary 18th century Black abolitionist Olaudah Equiano; slippages in time in relation to filmic tableaux and wordlessness; the allegorical; excessive masculinity and white heroism; and so much more... an incredible thinker and artist.

THE APPEARANCE OF BLACK LIVES MATTER - NICHOLAS MIRZOEFF

> [Available as
a free eBook
here](#) (2017). 187
pages. NAME
publications.

I've not found a more comprehensive resource for understanding

the digital presence of the Black Lives Matter movement. Joining dots between Black-run communal farms in post-Civil War Carolina, the importance of dignity in the documentation of Resurrection City in Washington DC, 1968, and the “space” of social media since Ferguson in 2014, this is a key text for establishing a thorough understanding of how Black protest has shaped activism, and has been shaped by its appearance in the cultural landscape.

CITIZEN: AN AMERICAN LYRIC - READINGS & DISCUSSION BY CLAUDIA RANKINE

Citizen is an intimate, fearless, and compelling book-length poem depicting the experience of being Black in white supremacist America. Rankine uses a series of cultural and artistic references to weave a poetics of racism, loneliness, and personal resistance. In particular, the book contains a series of scripts for ‘Situation’ videos created in collaboration with artist John Lucas, which are brilliantly sharp and provocative. (For example, head to the section in the recordings titled “February 26, 2012 / In Memory of Trayvon Martin”). In “On Public Lynching”, Rankine explains the process she had to go through to buy the rights to an archive image depicting a public lynching, which appears, manipulated, in the book. Her scathing and personal analysis of the photograph is particularly powerful.

> [Readings available to watch here](#)
(VOCA - The University of Arizona Poetry Centre, 2016)

> **Book (2014).**
166 pages.
Graywolf Press/
Penguin Books.

IN THE ARTIST'S OWN WORDS: EBONY G. PATTERSON

Artist Ebony G. Patterson discusses her exhibition at the Nasher Museum . . . *while the dew is still on the flowers.* . . (2020). As with her installations, in this short introductory video Patterson delicately uncovers what horrors can lie beneath a surface image, encouraging viewers to expand their understanding of the systemic violence that is around them, if perhaps hidden in plain sight:

‘Beneath the embellishment sits an uneasy question. The question is whether or not you choose to look. Spend time looking before you take a picture. We spend a lot of time behind a camera rather than engaging with the subjects that are in front of that camera. . . The exhibition is about making space’

> [Available to watch here.](#)
(Nasher Museum of Art 2020)

ABOUT KATE HOLFORD

Kate is Art Director of *Stillpoint Magazine*. She is an artist and curator based in Glasgow, Scotland.

A STUDY RESOURCE BY
STILLPOINT MAGAZINE

STILLPOINT MAGAZINE curates contemporary
writers and artists to uncover what is behind the self.

STILLPOINT MAGAZINE inhabits digital spaces to build public
knowledge that's rooted in community psychoanalysis and
in collective, multiple, inclusive, radical, and hidden truths.

Originally published June 2020. Updated January 2022.
You can also find a print-friendly version of this resource,
and other free items, at stillpointmag.org/study-room.

S T I L L P O I N T M A G . O R G

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