#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

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**Books and Reports**


Duke University Press.


United States Transgender Survey. 2015. “*USTS Black Respondents Report,*” Study Conducted by the National Transgender Center for Equality.

**News Articles**


Buchanan, Blu. 2019. “*The Regular and Necessary Practice of Black Trans Necromancy,*” The Activist History Review.


Green, Kai M. 2015. “*Race and Gender Are Not the Same!*’ Is Not a Good Response to the ‘Transracial’/Transgender Question or We Can and Must Do Better,” Feminist Wire.


Simmons-Thorne, Naomi. 2019. “*Pauli Murray and the Pronominal Problem: a De-essentialist Trans Historiography,*” The Activist History Review


Williams, Anthony James. 2018. "*bitches be nonbinary,*" Medium.com.


**Novels, Memoirs, and Creative Writing**


Timane, Rizi Xavier. 2013. *An Unspoken Compromise: My Story of Gender and Spiritual Transition*. Santa Clarita,


**Videos**


BCRW Videos. 2014. “CeCe McDonald, Reina Gossett, and Dean Spade: Police + Prisons Don’t Keep Us Safe - We Keep Each Other Safe.” Vimeo.


Gares, Jacqueline. 2016. *Free CeCe!* USA: Jac Gares Media, Inc.


Mock, Janet. 2015-Current. *Pose*. FX.


PBS NewsHour. 2020. “As Pride Month kicks off, black trans activists want their stories centered.” YouTube.


Tourmaline, & Sasha Wortzel. 2016. *Happy Birthday, Marsha!* Star People Film.


**Resources**

<p>| 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 &amp; 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 |</p>
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