Black Lives Matter

An introductory reading list

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This reading list contains some suggested reading material on a range of topics related to Black Lives Matter. Explore the sections below for some inspiration. Check YorSearch for availability.

Black Lives Matter and the police

- The making of Black lives matter: a brief history of an idea / Christopher J. Lebron
- Policing the planet: why the policing crisis led to black lives matter / Jordan T. Camp
- Mourning in America: race and the politics of loss / David Wallace Mcivor
- Racism, policy and politics / Karim Murji
- To exist is to resist: Black feminism in Europe / Akwugo Emejulu and Francesca Sobande
- The new Jim Crow: mass incarceration in the age of colorblindness / Michelle Alexander
- Golden gulag: prisons, surplus, crisis and opposition in globalizing California / Ruth Gilmore Wilson
- Our history is the future: Standing Rock versus the Dakota Access Pipeline, and the long tradition of indigenous resistance / Nick Estes
- The end of policing / Alex S. Vitale
- They can’t kill us all: Ferguson, Baltimore and a new era in America’s racial justice movement / Wesley Lowery
- Police: a field guide / David Correia and Tyler Wall

Influential voices: books by and about anti-racist and anti-colonial scholars and activists

- The rebellious life of Mrs Rosa Parks / Jeanne Theoharis
- Harriet Tubman: myth, memory and history / Milton C. Sernett
- Neo-colonialism: the last stage of imperialism / Kwame Nkrumah
● The colonizer and the colonized / Albert Memmi
● Decolonization and the decolonized / Albert Memmi and Robert Bonnono
● Cosmopolitanism: ethics in a world of strangers / Anthony Appiah
● The racial contract / Charles W. Mills
● Black Marxism: the making of the Black radical tradition / Cedric J. Robinson
● On the postcolony / Achille Mbembe
● Necropolitics / Achille Mbembe
● The wretched of the earth / Franz Fanon
● Black skin, white masks / Franz Fanon
● Franz Fanon’s Black Skin, white masks: new interdisciplinary essays / Maxim Silverman
● The souls of black folk / W.E.B. Du Bois
● Sister outsider / Audre Lorde
● Ain’t I a woman: Black women and feminism / bell hooks
● Black looks: race and representation / bell hooks
● Notes of a native son / James Baldwin
● The fire next time / James Baldwin
● I am not your Negro / James Baldwin and Raoul Peck
● If Beale Street could talk / James Baldwin
● Freedom is a constant struggle: Ferguson, Palestine, and the foundations of a movement / Angela Davis
● Abolition democracy: beyond empire, prisons, and torture / Angela Davis
● Malcolm X at Oxford Union: racial politics in a global era / Saladin M. Ambar
● The Cambridge companion to Malcolm X / Robert Terrill
● Martin Luther King Jr. / John A. Kirk
● The Chicago Freedom Movement: Martin Luther King Jr. and civil rights activism in the north / Mary Lou Finley
● Familiar stranger: a life between two islands / Stuart Hall
● Policing the crisis: mugging, the state and law and order / Stuart Hall
● Discourses on colonialism / Aime Cesaire
● There ain’t no black in the Union Jack / Paul Gilroy
● Black feminist thought: knowledge, consciousness, and the politics of empowerment / Patricia Hill Collins
● Intersectionality as critical social theory / Patricia Hill Collins
● Black sexual politics: African Americans, gender, and the new racism / Patricia Hill Collins
● On intersectionality: essential writings / Kimberle Crenshaw
● W. E. B. Du Bois and the souls of black folk / Stephanie J. Shaw
● I Am Because We Are: Readings in Africana Philosophy / Fred L. Hord and Jonathan Scott
● Orientalism / Edward Said
Race, racism and white privilege

- Why I'm no longer talking to white people about race'/ Reni Eddo-Lodge
- White innocence: paradoxes of colonialism and race / Gloria Wekker
- White women, race matters: the social construction of whiteness / Ruth Frankenberg
- Understanding everyday racism: an interdisciplinary theory / Philomena Essed
- Race and the undeserving poor: from abolition to brexit / Robbie Shilliam
- White privilege: the myth of a post-racial society / Kalwant Bhopal
- Brit(ish): on race, identity and belonging / Afua Hirsch
- White fragility: why it's so hard for white people to talk about racism / Robin DiAngelo
- New geographies of race and racism / Caroline Bressey and Claire Dwyer
- Blindspot: hidden biases of good people / Mahzarin Banaji and Anthony Greenwald
- How to be an antiracist / Ibram X Kendi
- Me and white supremacy: combat racism, change the world and become a good ancestor / Layla F Saad
- Color of law: a forgotten history of how our government segregated America / Richard Rothstein
- White logic, white methods: racism and methodology / Tufuku Zuberi and Eduardo Bonilla Silva
- Racism postrace / Herman Gray, Sarah Banet-Weiser and Roopali Mukherjee
- ‘Seeing white’ podcast series / Duke University
- From the Archives: resources related to racism and apartheid

Slavery and its legacies

- Scenes of subjection: terror, slavery, and self-making in nineteenth-century America / Saidiya V. Hartman
- Lose your mother: a journey along the Atlantic slave route / Saidiya V. Hartman
- Black, white, and in color: essays on American literature and culture / Hortense J. Spillers
- The American crucible: slavery, emancipation and human rights / Robin Blackburn
- In the wake: on blackness and being / Christina Elizabeth Sharpe
- Monstrous intimacies: making post-slavery subjects / Christina Elizabeth Sharpe
- On failing to make the past present / Stephen Best
- Afro-Pessimism: the unclear word / Jared Sexton
- The case for reparations / Ta-Nehisi Coates
- The case against reparations / Adolph Reed
- The twenty-first century black studies turn to melancholy / Margo Natalie Crawford
- The middle passage and race-based trauma / Luminita Dragulescu (chapter in Trauma and literature)
- Consider Afro-Pessimism / Sebastian Weier
- From the Archives: Harewood West Indian Archive

Civil Rights Movement/Black Panthers

- To shape a new world: essays in the political philosophy of Martin Luther King / Tommie Shelby and Brandon M. Terry
- Power to the people: the world of the Black Panthers / Bobby Seale
- Back to Black: retelling Black radicalism for the 21st century / Kehinde Andrews
- If they come in the morning: voices of resistance / Angela Davis
- Futures of Black radicalism / Gaye Teresa Johnson and Alex Lubin
- British Black power: the anti-imperialism of political blackness and the problem of nativist socialism / John Nayaran
- The fire next time / James Baldwin
- From the Archives: Records of the Capricorn Africa Society 1948-1963

Race and empire: some approaches:

- Empires of the mind: the colonial past and the politics of the present / Robert Gildea
- Routledge handbook of postcolonial politics/ Robbie Shilliam and Olivia Rutazibwa
- How Europe underdeveloped Africa / Walter Rodney
- Black and British: a forgotten history / David Olusoga
- Insurgent empire: anticolonial resistance and British dissent / Priyamvada Gopal
- London is the place for me: black Britons, citizenship and the politics of race / Kennetta Hammon Perry
- West Indian intellectuals in Britain / Bill Schwarz
- Malcolm X at Oxford Union: racial politics in a global era / Saladin M. Ambar
- The Empire strikes back: race and racism in 70s Britain / Hazel V. Carby
- Imperial intimacies: a tale of two islands. / Hazel V. Carby
- Natives: race and class in the ruins of empire / Akala
- How empire shaped us / Antoinette M. Burton
Decolonising education/Rhodes Must Fall

- Decolonising the University / Gurminder K. Bhamra
- Decolonization and feminisms in global teaching and learning / Sara de Jong, Rosalba Icaza and Olivia Rutazibwa
- Navigating institutional racism in British universities / Katy Sian
- Decolonisation in universities: the politics of knowledge / Jonathan Jansen
- On being included: racism and diversity in institutional life / Sara Ahmed
- Decolonizing the university, knowledge systems and disciplines in Africa / Sabelo J. Ndlovu-Gatsheni and Siphamandla Zondi
- Teaching to transgress: education as the practice of freedom / bell hooks
- Pedagogy of the oppressed / Paulo Freire
- Epistemic freedom in Africa: deprovincialization and decolonization / Sabelo Ndlovu-Gatsheni
- The experiences of black and minority ethnic academics: a comparative study of the unequal academy / Kalwant Bhopal
- Dismantling race in higher education: racism, whiteness and decolonising the academy / Jason Arday and Heidi Safia

Decolonising theory and methodology

- Western dominance in international relations? The internationalisation of IR in Brazil and India / Audrey Alejandro
- Imagining economics otherwise: encounters with identity/difference / Natasha Kaul
- Feminism without borders: decolonizing theory, practicing solidarity / Chandra Talpade Mohanty
- Decolonizing methodologies: research and indigenous people / Linda Tuhiwai Smith
- Postcolonialism meets economics / Eiman O. Zein-Elabdin and S. Charusheela
White logic, white methods: racism and methodology / Tufuku Zuberi and Eduardo Bonilla Silva
Handbook of critical and indigenous methodologies / Norman K. Denzin
Decolonizing solidarity: dilemmas and directions for supporters of indigenous struggles / Clare Land

Twentieth century Black British history

- Histories / Reni Eddo-Lodge (chapter in Why I'm no longer talking to white people about race)
- Bordering Britain: law, race and empire / Nadine El-Enany
- Imperial intimacies: a tale of two islands / Hazel V. Corby
- Black London: the imperial metropolis and decolonization in the twentieth century / Marc Matera
- Whitewashing Britain: race and citizenship in the postwar era / Kathleen Paul
- The heart of the race: black women's lives in Britain / Beverley Bryan
- Policing the crisis: mugging, the state, and law and order / Stuart Hall
- London is the place for me: black Britons, citizenship and the politics of race / Kennetta Hammond Perry
- Thinking black: Britain, 1964-1985 / Rob Waters
- Black Handsworth: race in 1980s Britain / Kieran Connell
- Enoch Powell and the making of postcolonial Britain: Camilla Schofield
- Race and riots in Thatcher's Britain / Simon Peplow
- There ain't no black in the Union Jack: the cultural politics of race and nation / Paul Gilroy
- Familiar stranger: a life between two islands / Stuart Hall
- Staying power: the history of black people in Britain / Peter Fryer, Paul Gilroy and Gary Younge

Pre-twentieth century Black British history

- Blackamoore: Africans in Tudor England, their presence, status and origins / Onyeka Nubia
- England’s other countrymen: Black Tudor society / Onyeka Nubia

Intersectionality and identity

- From dispossession to radical self-possession / Ann Cvetkovich (chapter in Depression: a public feeling?)
- Black feminism reimagined: after intersectionality / Jennifer C. Nash
- None like us: blackness, belonging, aesthetic life / Stephen Michael Best
● The melancholy of race: psychoanalysis, assimilation and hidden grief / Anne Anlin Cheng
● Cultural melancholy: readings of race, impossible mourning and African American ritual / Jermaine Singleton
● Hope draped in black: race, melancholy and the agony of progress / Joseph Richard Winters

Black aesthetics
● Black post-blackness: the Black Arts Movement and twenty-first century aesthetics / Margo Natalie Crawford
● The new black gothic / Sheri Marie Harrison
● Black and blur / Fred Moten
● In the break: the aesthetics of the Black radical tradition / Fred Moten

Additional resources
● Anti-racism reading list / staff and students at University of St Andrews Library
● Cheerful: articles, books and podcasts
● ‘Short takes’ podcast series on race and racialisation
● Triple Cripple podcasts
● 10 key books to read
● Anti-racist reading list / Layla F. Saad
● Structural racism and police violence / Sage
● New Zealand anti-racist reading list
● Geographies of racial capitalism / Ruth Wilson Gilmore
● Guide to allyship
● Performative allyship is deadly (here’s what to do instead)