

The Impact of Racism in Healthcare and the Perinatal Period Webinar Series – Part I



Moderator

Debbie Young, MSL, LCCE, CLC, ICCE
InJoy Customer Relations Manager



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Webinar Series – Part I**

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Our Presenters



Vita Malama, MA is a certified birth doula and trained Survivors of Trauma consultant. She is passionate about women's and maternal wellness. Vita received MA from The Chicago School of Professional Psychology, exploring organizational human performance. She combines her love for maternal health, childbirth education and birth coaching with psychology to provide a holistic approach to birth preparation and childbirth recovery.

Vita desires to increase positive birth experiences and postpartum recovery outcomes by strengthening childbirth literacy and empowering families. She is the author of the Birthing Insights® maternal assessment, a survey tool designed to measure birth readiness and pregnancy related risk factors. The tool is intended to strengthen continuity of care postpartum and provide increased transparency for timely interventions.



Heather Thompson, MS, PhD, is a molecular and cellular biologist, clinical researcher, birthworker, and queer parent with non-binary gender. Heather uses she/her pronouns and has worked on issues related to reproductive health for more than 25 years, advocating for equity, access and autonomy in childbirth. From 2010-2017 she was the Director of Research at a community birth center in Colorado, advocating for midwives and community birth through data generation, analysis and dissemination. Currently she is the Deputy Director of Elephant Circle, a birth justice organization, doing work that allows her to combine her background in birth access and equity with science and community organizing. She is passionate about supporting the family unit and helping families navigate their own journey, particularly as it relates to maternity care, birth choices, and legal cannabis. Born and raised in Colorado, Heather enjoys being outside around a campfire with her partner, two kids and larger community.



THE IMPACT OF RACISM IN
HEALTHCARE AND THE
PERINATAL PERIOD - PART I

OVERVIEW

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Introduction and
Terminology

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Racism Defined

02

Origins of Racism
in America

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Biases

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A Timeline Through
Reproductive Justice

05

Whiteness &
White Culture

SESSION OBJECTIVES

- Increase knowledge of history and origins of racism in the United States
- Understand bias and the framework of bias that continues oppression
- Describe practices of racism and recognize how racism has evolved over time in the United States

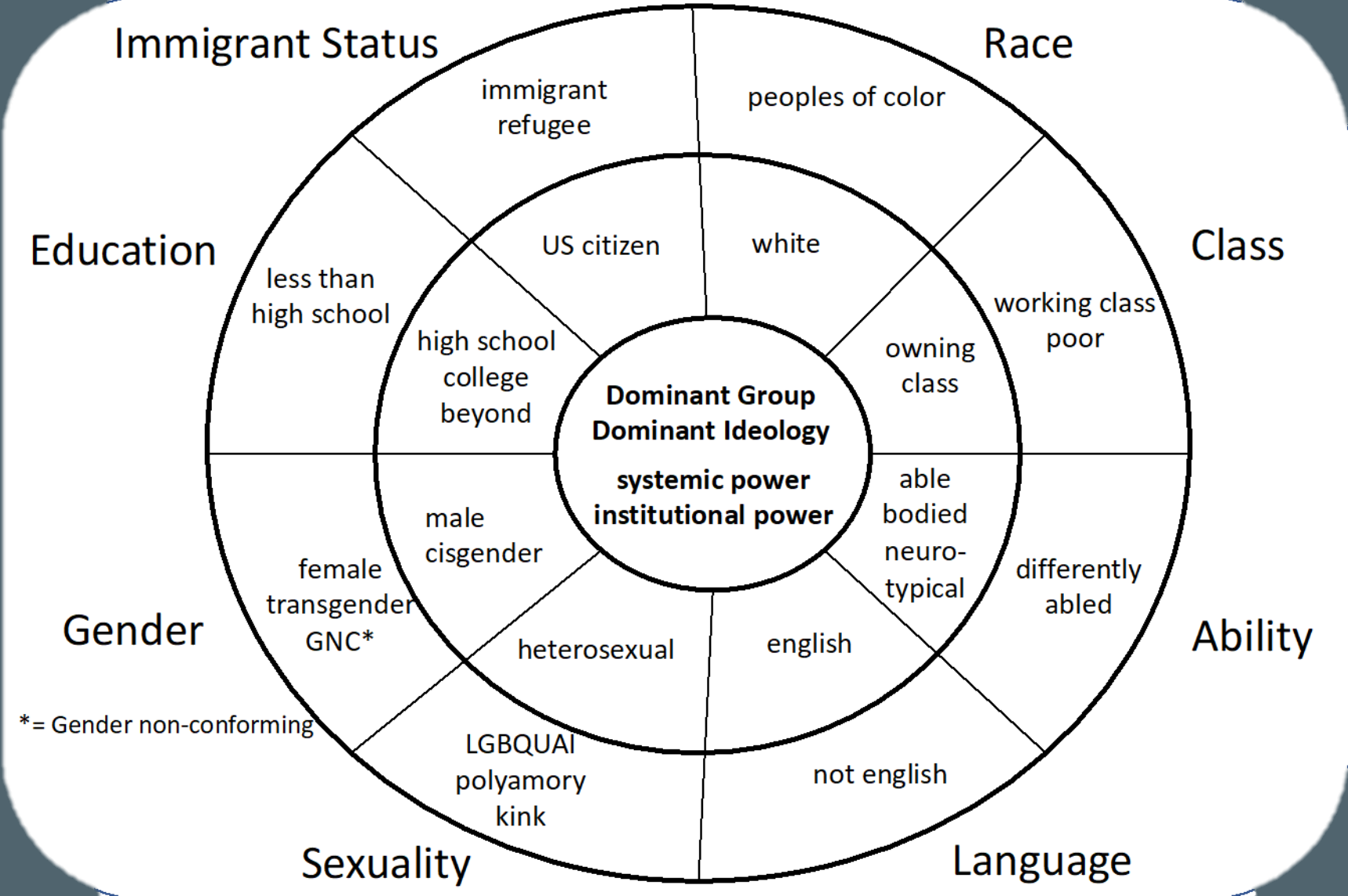


INTRODUCTION & TERMINOLOGY

The image features two crumpled paper head silhouettes on a wooden background. The silhouette on the left is dark grey, and the one on the right is light grey. Both have a triangular section of the opposite color on their foreheads. The text is centered between them.

Shifting Our Mindset
Shared terminology and concepts

Viewing Ourselves & Our World



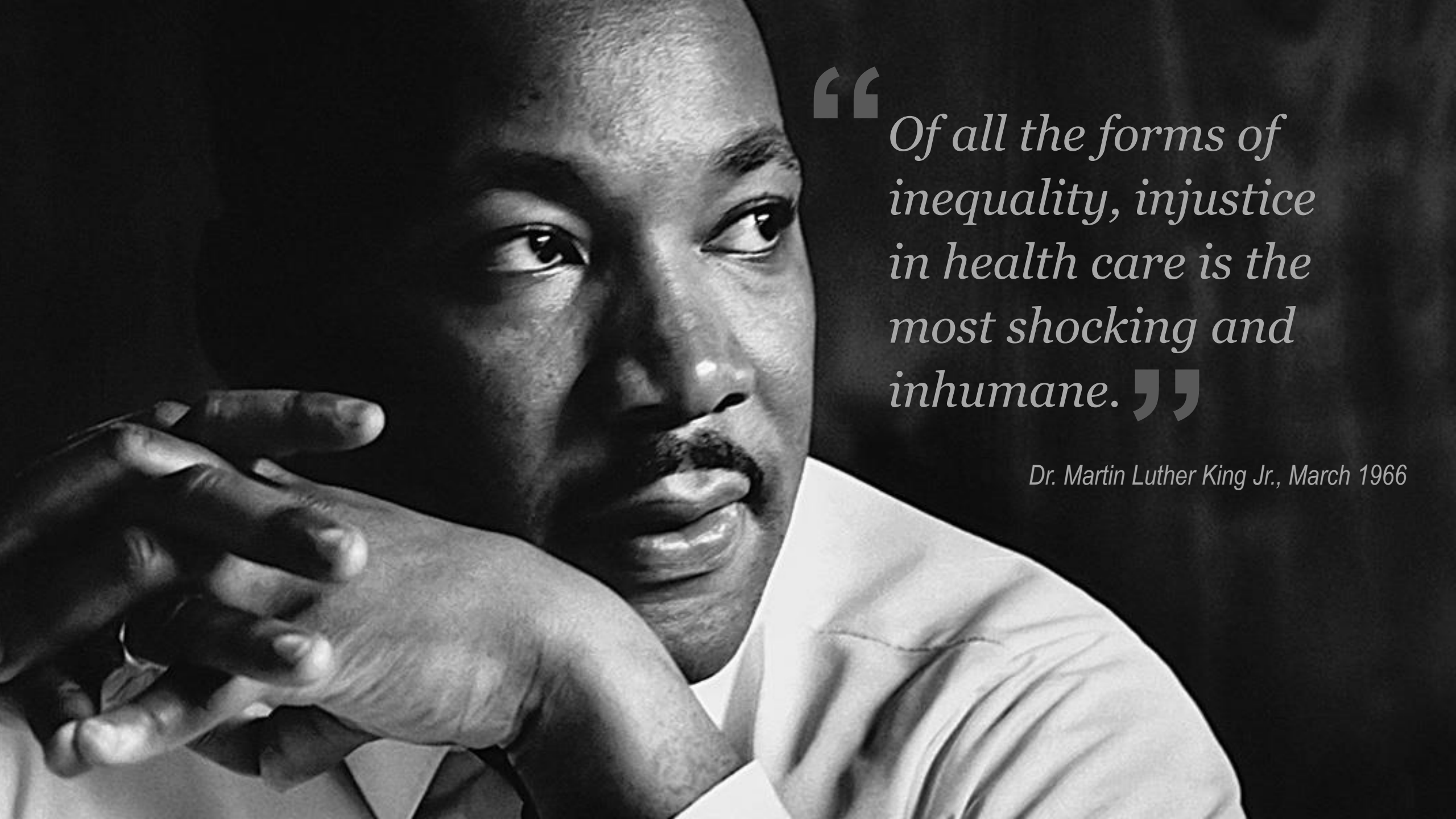
Intersectionality

“Because of their intersectional identity as both women and people of color within discourses that are shaped to respond to one or the other, the interests and experiences of women of color are frequently marginalized within both.”

Mapping the Margins: Intersectionality, Identity Politics, and Violence Against Women of Color
Kimberlé Williams Crenshaw, 1993.



ORIGINS OF RACISM



“
*Of all the forms of
inequality, injustice
in health care is the
most shocking and
inhumane.*”

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., March 1966

Naturalization Act of 1790



CHAP. III.—*An Act to establish an uniform Rule of Naturalization.*(a)

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That any alien, being a free white person, who shall have resided within the limits and under the jurisdiction of the United States for the term of two years, may be admitted to become a citizen thereof, on application to any common law court of record, in any one of the states wherein he shall have resided for the term of one year at least, and making proof to the satisfaction of such court, that he is a person of good character, and taking the oath or affirmation prescribed by law, to support the constitution of the United States, which oath or affirmation such court shall administer; and the clerk of such court shall record such application, and the pro-*



BIASES

The Evolution of Racism



Present

**OVERT
WHITE SUPREMACY
(Socially Unacceptable)**

Lynching

Hate Crimes Swastikas

KKK

Burning
Crosses

The N-Word

Racial Slurs

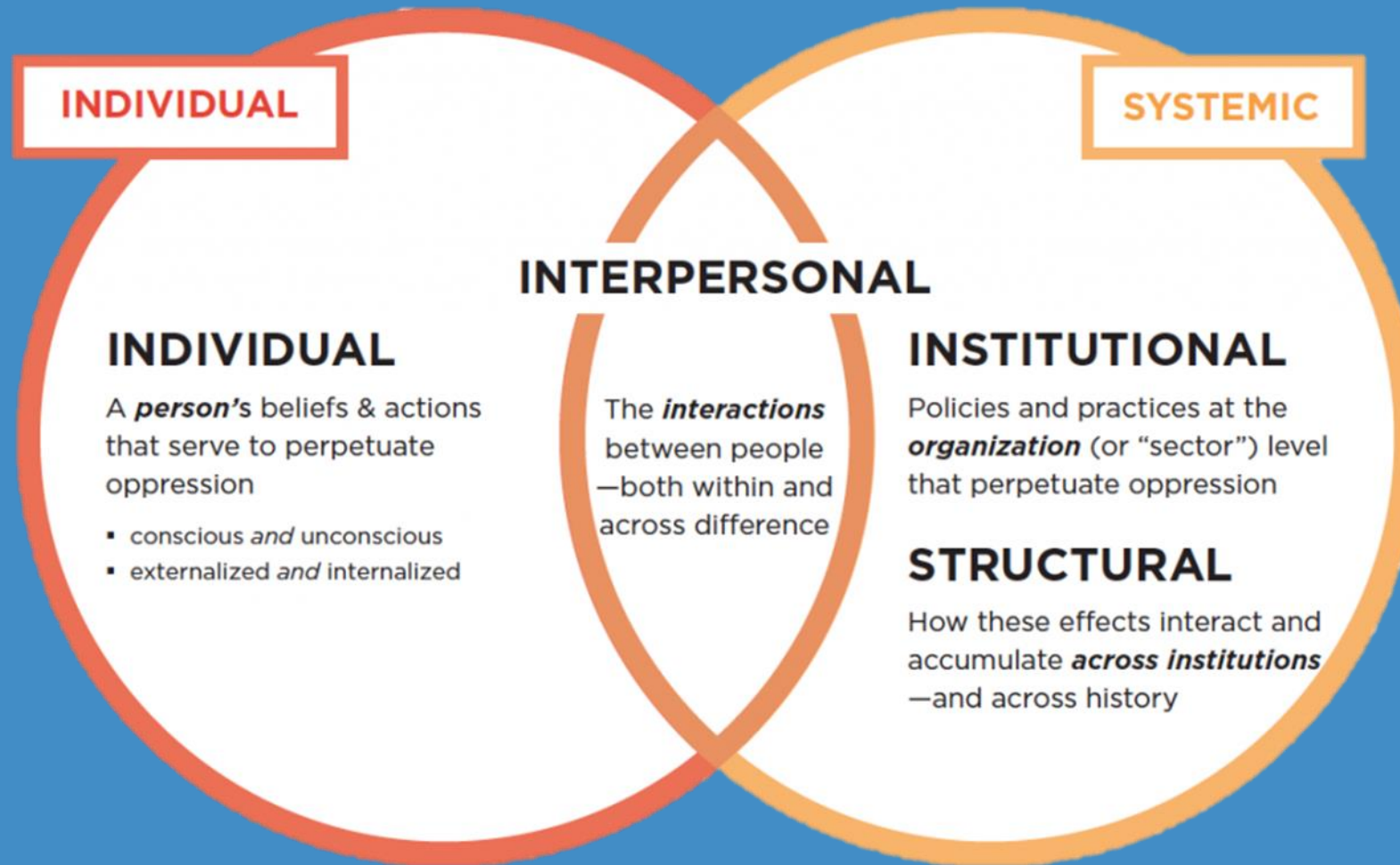
Racist Jokes

Neo-Nazis

**COVERT
WHITE SUPREMACY
(Socially Acceptable)**



Looking through the Lens



Bias is embedded at every level

Structural

laws, representation, regulation.
Industrial complexes

Institutional

policies, procedures

Interpersonal

actions, implementation of policy

Internal

"early, often and relentlessly"

Hakima Tafunzi Payne



A TIMELINE THROUGH
REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE

Professionalization of midwives begins in France and spreads throughout Europe despite resistance by the Catholic Church



1560s

1600s

African women experience incalculable and innumerable offences and abuses on their bodies as a result of slavery



President Andrew Jackson encourages his troops to kill women and children in order to decimate current and future generation of Native peoples

1654

1800s

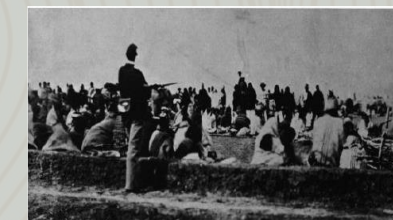
1830s



Invention of forceps marks beginning of Western medicine's development of obstetrics

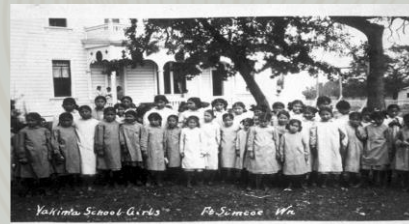


Midwifery declines due to development of obstetrics & religious oversight...until negative effects were noticed and addressed with government support



The Page Act marks the end of open borders prohibiting the entry of Chinese

The 1882 Chinese Exclusion Act prevented all immigration of Chinese immigrants including the wives of immigrants already living in the United States, from entering the country



Twilight birth method becomes widely used in developing countries and U.S



Various state anti-miscegenation laws prohibit the marriage of whites and Blacks, and in many states also Asians

1967 US Supreme Court unanimously ruled in Loving v. Virginia anti-miscegenation laws are unconstitutional

1875

1900s-1960s

1915-1960s

1920

1913-1948



Native American children sent to boarding schools to "assimilate." Students are discouraged and punished for speaking indigenous language or practicing religion and culture



Women get the right to vote.



Clinical trials begin on early forms of the birth control pill on women living in housing projects in Puerto Rico

1956



1965

President Lyndon Johnson signs historic legislation, creating Medicare and Medicaid health care programs that provide health insurance to the elderly and poor in the United States

The Stonewall Riots mark a new phase in the LGBT liberation movement

1968



1973

Roe v. Wade Supreme Court decision establishes a women's right to abortion

Hyde Amendment makes it illegal for federal Medicaid to pay for abortions except in the case of life endangerment for the pregnant woman

1979



Phoenix and Oklahoma City Indian Health Services use Depo-Provera on Native women with disabilities, despite the fact that it wasn't approved by the FDA



President Clinton signs the Defense of Marriage Act banning marriage between same sex couples



In 2012 the NPREC finalized national standards for the prevention of sexual assault in prison, including several guidelines addressing transgender issues

Transgender and gender-variant people, as a population, are incarcerated at even higher rates than the general population of African American men

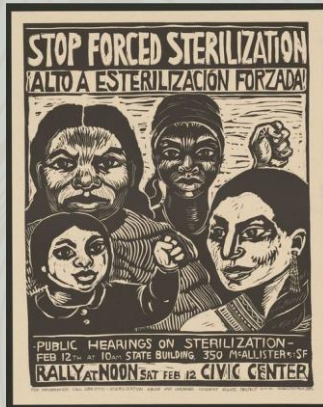
1980's

1996

1996

2000's

2005



President Bill Clinton sign Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act disproportionately affecting low-income women on welfare for bearing children and coercing low-income women to marry

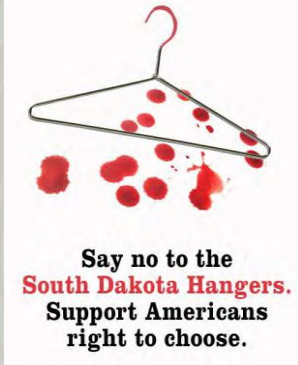


States begin to expanded child welfare laws to address prenatal drug exposure following 1997 South Carolina State Supreme Court case Whitner v. South Carolina upheld the conviction of a woman charged with criminal child abuse for using cocaine during pregnancy



3 states defeat attempts to restrict or ban abortion - South Dakota, California, Oregon

2006



2015

Rep. Barbara Lee (D-CA) and cosponsors introduce the EACH Woman Act.

Vice-President Mike Pence introduced the first federal legislation to defund Planned Parenthood, he signed 8 anti-abortion bills into law during less than four years as Governor of Indiana

2016



2017

Oregon passes the Reproductive Health Equity Act, expanding insurance coverage on abortion procedures and other reproductive health services to residents regardless of their income, gender identity, or citizenship status

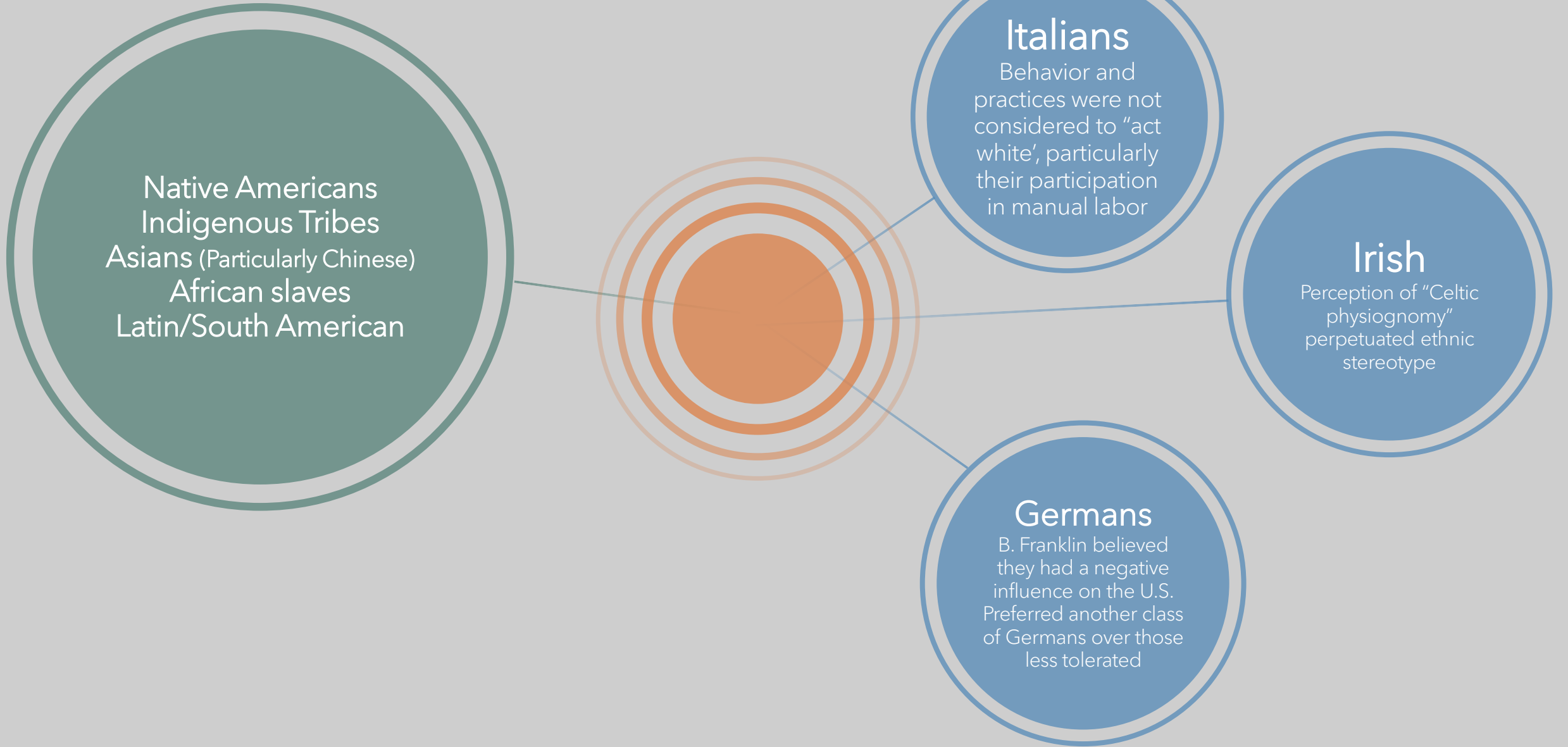


WHITENESS & WHITE
CULTURE

What is Whiteness?

- Its origins date as far back as the 1600s.
- **Whiteness** was created as a social construct.
- Whiteness is a social construct that is not easily identified because of its insidious nature.
- The purpose was to keep power among the European elite and wealthy European immigrants in the Americas.
- The aim was to dominate class and power by making sure enslaved African and indigenous Native Americans would not organize against and overturn the wealthy class (Bacon's Rebellion).
- ***Once whiteness was codified into law, white supremacy became systemic.***

The Ambiguity of Whiteness



The 'White' Experience



Characteristics of White Culture

**Characteristics that commonly show up in organizations
and undermine the goal of promoting equity and access:
And what we might do instead!**

Things that show up	Antidote
Perfectionism/fear of conflict	Focus on appreciating and learning
Sense of urgency	Realistic plans, acceptance of realistic timing
Defensiveness	Name the fear with empathy
Focus on content over process	Use process to support content
One right way	Honor and validate when alternatives work
One-way decision making	Everyone is accountable and responsible
Either/Or thinking	Look for more than two options, note nuance
Power Hoarding	Change is inevitable, challenging leadership is healthy
Individualism	Skillful teamwork
Progress = Bigger/More	Progress = Values based process
Objectivity	ID your Point of View (POV), See other POVs
Right to Comfort	Discomfort = Growth

Did you see any of these show up? How did you try to counter them?

This chart is from the US MERA Equity Task Force and is based on the work of Tema Okun and others



RACISM DEFINED

The background of the slide is a dense pattern of crumpled paper heads in various colors, including white, light blue, yellow, orange, red, purple, and green. The heads are arranged in a way that they appear to be looking towards the right side of the frame.

racism
rac·ism

noun /rā-ˌsi-zəm/

A system of advantage based on race and supported by cultural and institutional structures, policies and practices that create and sustain advantages for the dominant white group while systematically harming other racial groups.

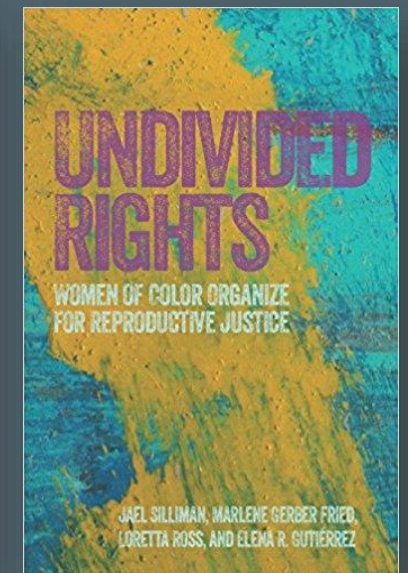
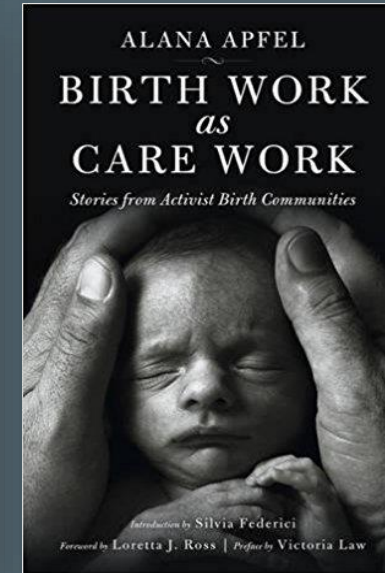
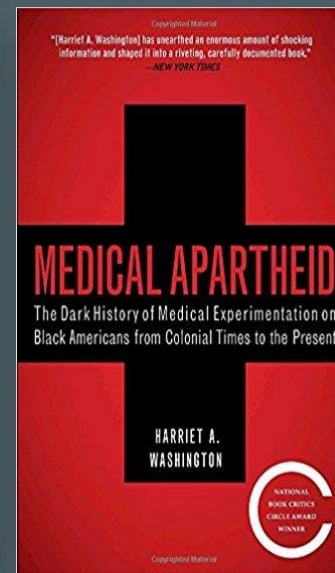
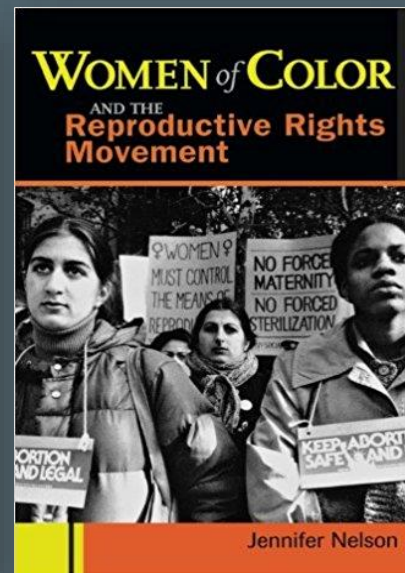
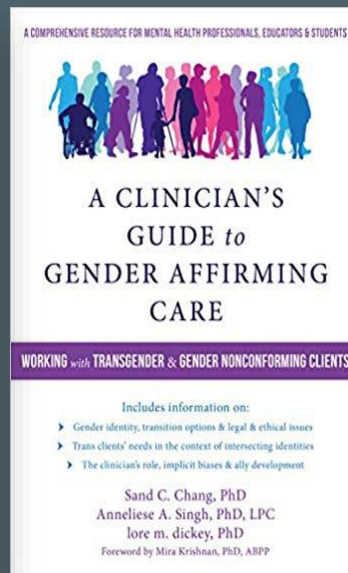
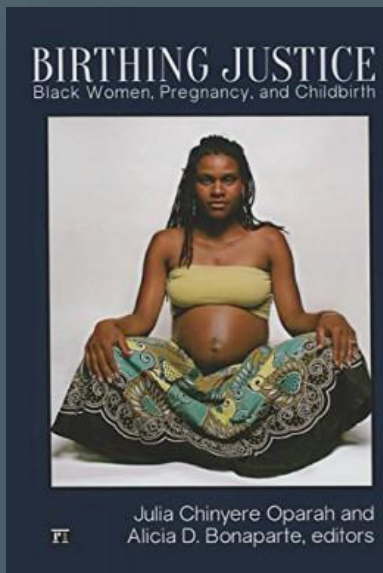
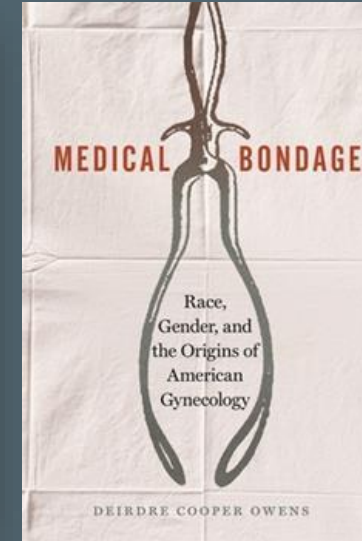
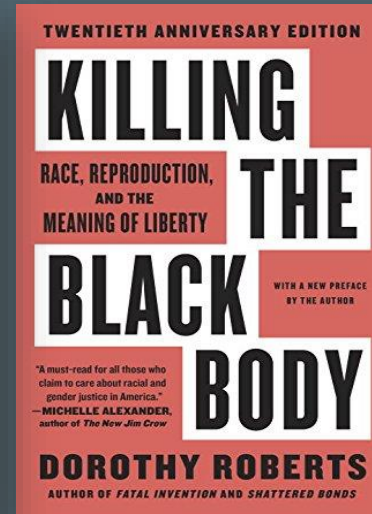
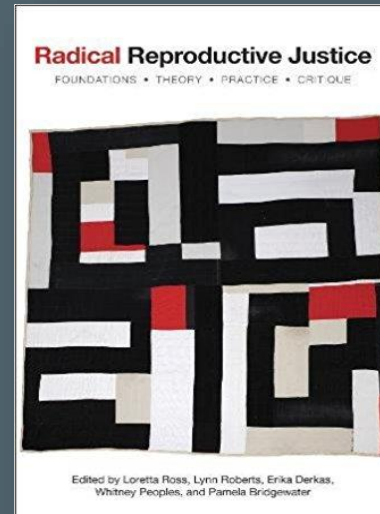
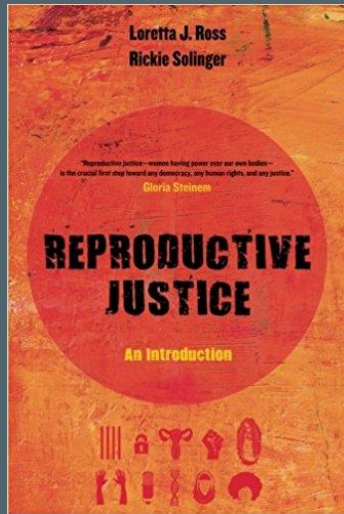
This relative advantage for whites and harm for people of color is supported by the actions of individuals, cultural norms and values, and the institutional structures and practices of society.

Racism = Power + Racial Prejudice



RESOURCES

This is Just The Beginning written resources for your journey



Follow Black & Indigenous Women



Jennie Joseph



Hakima Tafunzi Payne



Jessica Roach



Marinah Farrell



Nicolle Gonzales



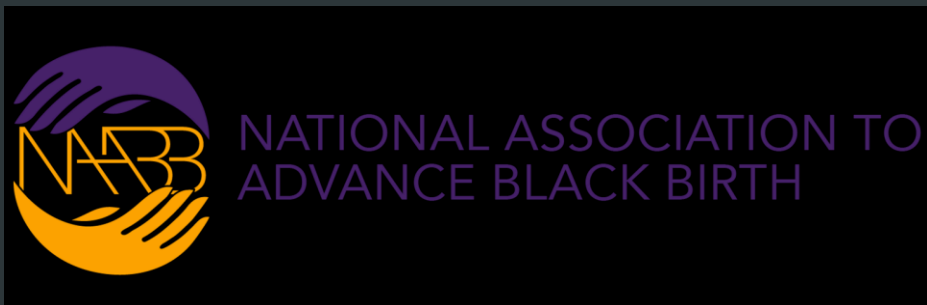
Shafia Monroe



Monica McLemore



Connect with Organizations Supporting People of Color & Inclusion



SACRED Birth During COVID19

The SACRED Birth Study is designed for, by, and with Black mothers and Black birthing people to share information about their patient experiences in hospital settings during labor, birth, and postpartum in six key areas:

Safety, Autonomy, Communication, Racism, Empathy, and Dignity.

[Sacredbirth.ucsf.edu](https://sacredbirth.ucsf.edu)

Breastfeeding Advocacy



Kimarie Bugg

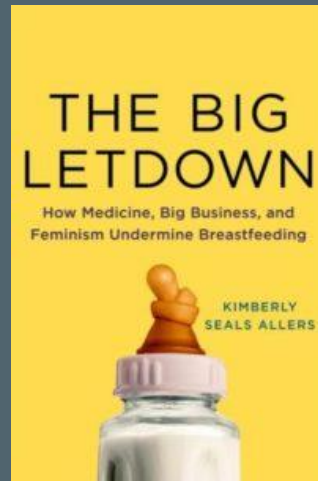


Also Reaching Our Brothers
Everywhere (ROBE)

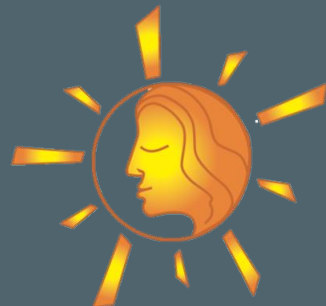
Oregon Inter-Tribal Breastfeeding Coalition



Kimberly Sears Allers



CO Local BIPOC Lead Advocacy Organizations



Colorado Organization for
Latina Opportunity and
Reproductive Rights (COLOR)



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Hereby states that

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This webinar was the equivalent of 60 minutes of education.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Debbie Young".

Debbie Young, MSL, ICCE, LCCE, CLC

