DEI Related Faculty Resources

LTS’ Pathways for Tomorrow Grant, funded by the Lilly Endowment Inc., has a number of goals, all of which relate to more fully develop diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) into the life of our institution. Goal II’s focus is on creating an institutional culture that intentionally welcomes, appreciates, respects, and celebrates differences in language, race, ethnicity, color, gender and fluidity, sexual orientation, disability, age, national origin, and theology. This resource list is one small way of seeking to respond to this goal by providing suggested books, articles, video clips, documentaries, and podcasts that can help us think more deeply and respond more intentionally to issues related to inclusivity and hospitable environments.

A special “thanks” to those who responded to the request for DEI related resources that you have found helpful. Creating welcoming and safe spaces for all students is a goal that each of us has in our teaching and scholarship and resourcing one another is a powerful way of working together as colleagues toward this goal.

Books

Pedagogy


*How do we create cultures of engaged inquiry, framed in vulnerability? How can we be better equipped to ask and answer big, even uncomfortable questions that fuel the heart of inquiry and, perhaps, lead to a more peaceful and just world? This text explores the role of vulnerability in teaching, including how we might better engage difference in the classroom.*


*As the Latinx population within American Christianity grows, how should institutions of theological higher education welcome and incorporate the gifts of these populations into their life and work? Admitting this is an exceedingly difficult question considering the history and legacy of colonization in Latin America and the Caribbean, Conde-Frazier seeks to tie together numerous “loose ends” by focusing on a new paradigm, centered on the work of the Holy Spirit, involving decolonizing theological education.*


*This book places disability front and center as it critiques institutional practices, including pedagogy, by examining ways that disabled students are marginalized. Pedagogical recommendations related to Universal Design for Learning (UDL) are suggested.*

*Cultural and ethnic diversity is the reality of our world, and much more so in this age of heightened globalization. Yet, do our ways of doing theological education match with our current reality and hopes for a colorful and just tomorrow? How shall we do theological formation, so it helps give birth to a culturally diverse, racially just, and hospitable world? This edited volume gathers the voices of minoritized scholars and their white allies in the profession in response to the above questions.*


*Presents Universal Design for Learning (UDL) as an effective framework to teach students of color.*


*Jennings integrates prose, narrative, and poetry to present his argument that higher education in the United States, including theological higher education, is distorted by whiteness. He offers hope for change and suggests how theological institutions of higher learning can position themselves in the midst of massive cultural shifts away from white, Western cultural hegemony.*


*Theological education, like theology itself, is becoming a truly global enterprise. As such, theological education has to form, teach, and train leaders of faith communities prepared to lead in a transnational world. The teaching of theology with a global awareness has to wrestle with the nature and scope of the theological curriculum, teaching methods, and the context of learning. Teaching Global Theologies directly addresses both method and content by identifying local resources, successful pedagogies of inclusion, and best practices for teaching theology in a global context. *Note especially Chapter 8 – “Teaching Theology from a Global Perspective.”**


*The author argues that educators must teach students about racial violence, oppression, and how to make sustainable change in their communities through radical civic initiatives and movements. To do this, education must be approached with imagination, determination, boldness, and the urgency of an abolitionist.*

*Teachers must not only be against racism in education. They must be actively antiracist. This book includes honest conversations between educators of color and their white colleagues as well as resources for teaching about and actively interrupting racism in education.*

**Theology/Biblical Studies**


*Twelve Latina feminist theologians add their voices and perspectives to the larger feminist discourse, covering topics such as popular religion, denominational presence and attraction, methodology, lived experience, analysis of nationhood, and interpretations of life lived on a border that is not only geographic by also racial, gendered, linguistic, and religious.*


*Critics from three major racial/ethnic minority communities in the United States, African American, Asian American, and Latinx American, focus on the problematic of race and ethnicity in the Bible and in contemporary biblical interpretation. Attention is given to differentials in power such as gender, class, sexuality, and colonialism.*


*Queer theology is a significant new development and central to much current teaching and thinking about gender, sexuality and the body. Controversies in Queer Theology provides an overview of the main areas of difference and debate in queer theologies, engaging with and critiquing all the major writers working in this area.*


*De La Torre argues that whiteness has desecrated the message of Jesus. In a scathing indictment, he describes how white American Christians have aligned themselves with the oppressors who subjugate the “least of these”—those who have been systemically marginalized because of their race, ethnicity, and socioeconomic status. He prophetically outlines how we need to decolonize Christianity and reclaim its revolutionary message.*

_A revised and expanded edition of the text that presents a justice-based ethics that avails itself of the perspectives and experiences of those on the margins._


_The killing of Trayvon Martin in 2012 and the subsequent acquittal of his killer brought public attention to the controversial “Stand Your Ground” laws. This book is an attempt to take seriously social and theological questions raised by this and similar stories, and to answer black church people’s questions of justice and faith in response to the call of God._


_Draws on themes of the disability-rights movement to identify people with disabilities as members of a socially disadvantaged minority group rather than as individuals who need to adjust. Highlights the hidden history of people with disabilities in church and society, proclaiming the emancipatory presence of the disabled God._


_The author seeks “to encourage and equip Christian faith communities to move beyond the decades-long stalemate over human sexuality and gender identity” because “Queer gifts emerge in Christian communities when lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) people no longer feel compelled to justify their presence in those communities.”_


_This volume collects both classic and cutting-edge readings related to gender, sex, sexuality, and the Bible. Engaging the Hebrew Bible, New Testament, and surrounding texts and worlds, Rhiannon Graybill and Lynn R. Huber have amassed a selection of essays that reflects a wide range of perspectives and approaches towards gender and sexuality._


_For generations, the Bible has been employed by settler colonial societies as a weapon to dispossess Indigenous and racialized peoples of their lands, cultures, and spiritualties. Given this devastating legacy, many want nothing to with it. But is it possible for the exploited and their_
allies to reclaim the Bible from the dominant powers? In Unsettling the Word, over 60 Indigenous and Settler authors come together to wrestle with the Scriptures, rereading and re-imagining the ancient text for the sake of reparative futures.


Contributors to this volume focus specifically upon those portions of the Bible that have particular relevance for readers interested in lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender issues such as the construction of gender and sexuality, the reification of heterosexuality, the question of lesbian and gay ancestry within the Bible, the transgendered voices of the prophets, the use of the Bible in contemporary political, socio-economic and religious spheres and the impact upon lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender communities. Accordingly, the commentary raises new questions and re-directs more traditional questions in fresh and innovative ways, offering new angles of approach.


Why has Christianity, a religion premised upon neighborly love, failed in its attempts to heal social divisions? In this work, Jennings delves deep into the late medieval soil in which the modern Christian imagination grew, to reveal how Christianity’s highly refined process of socialization has inadvertently created and maintained segregated societies. A probing study of the cultural fragmentation—social, spatial, and racial—that took root in the Western mind, this book shows how Christianity has consistently forged Christian nations rather than encouraging genuine communion between disparate groups and individuals.


*Intersectionality is a tool for analysis, developed primarily by black feminists, to examine the causes and consequences of converging social identities (gender, race, class, sexual identity, age, ability, nation, religion) within interlocking systems of power and privilege (sexism, racism, classism, heterosexism, ableism, ageism, nativism) and to foster engaged, activist work toward social justice. Applied to theology, intersectionality demands attention to the Christian thinker's own identities and location within systems of power and the value of deep consideration of complementary, competing, and even conflicting points of view that arise from the experiences and understandings of diverse people.*


*Latinx Theologies as an academic enterprise emerged alongside a broad variety of contextual theological movements and discourses. While much work has been done on biblical interpretation in Latinx biblical criticism, little can be found regarding biblical interpretation*
within the framework of Latinx theological reflection. To address this gap in the literature, the contributors, from various ecclesial affiliations and religious traditions, examine the status and role of the Bible in Latinx Theologies.


*Writing from a deep understanding of the struggle between despair and hope that marks the lives of some in the African American context, McCaulley argues that reading scripture from the perspective of Black church tradition is invaluable for connecting with a rich faith history and addressing the urgent issues our times. Topics, often overlooked by white interpreters, include ethnicity, political protest, policing, and slavery.*


*This book is the first comprehensive commentary on the Bible from the perspective of disability. The BDC examines how the Bible constructs or reflects human wholeness, impairment, and disability in all their expressions. Biblical texts do envision the ideal body, but they also present visions of the body that deviate from this ideal, whether physically or through cognitive impairments or mental illness. The BDC engages the full range of these depictions of body and mind, exploring their meaning through close readings and comparative analysis.*


*Reynolds argues that the Christian story is one of strength coming from weakness, of wholeness emerging from brokenness, and of power in vulnerability. He offers valuable biblical, theological, and pastoral tools to understand and welcome those with disabilities.*


*For five hundred years, Latinx cultures and identities have been shaped by their challenges to the religious, socio-economic, and political status quo, whether in opposition to Spanish colonialism, Latin American dictatorships, US imperialism in Central America and the Caribbean, the oppression of farmworkers, or the current exploitation of undocumented immigrants. Christianity has played a significant role in that movement at every stage. Romero explores from the perspective of a Mexican American, the history and theology of what he terms the "Brown Church" and considers how this movement has responded to these and other injustices throughout its history by appealing to the belief that God’s vision for redemption includes not only heavenly promises but also the transformation of every aspect of our lives and the world.*

Religion plays a critical role in determining how disability is understood and how persons with disabilities are treated. Examining the world’s religions through the lens of disability studies not only peers deeply into the character of a particular religion, but also teaches something brand new about what it means to respond to people living with physical and mental differences.


Yes, white people can be saved. But what about the reality of white normativity? This idea and way of being in the world has been parasitically joined to Christianity, and this is the ground of many of our problems today. It is time to redouble the efforts of the church and its institutions to muster well-informed, gospel-based initiatives to fight racialized injustice and overcome the heresy of whiteness. One of the few books that examines anti-racism from biblical and theological perspectives.


This wide-ranging Reader provides a comprehensive survey of the interaction between postcolonial criticism and biblical studies, including examples of the practical application of postcolonial criticism to biblical texts and the consideration of issues such as diaspora, race, representation, and territory.


Summarizing the various apologetic arguments for the inclusion of queer people in Christianity, Tonstad moves beyond inclusion to argue for a queer theology that builds on the interconnection of theology with sex and money. Thoroughly grounded in queer theory as well as in Christian theology, *Queer Theology* grapples with the fundamental challenges of the body, sex, and death, as these are where queerness and Christianity find (and, maybe, lose) each other.


Many religious people, however well meaning, are unfamiliar with the language and philosophy of the disability movement. They unintentionally give offense by language and actions that reflect a by-gone era. This book aims to do two things: to acquaint church and synagogue leaders with the history and philosophy of the disability movement and to provide resources from scripture and theology for thinking and preaching about disability in a new way.

*This volume by a Cherokee teacher, former pastor, missiologist, and historian brings Indigenous theology into conversation with Western approaches to history and theology, exposing the weaknesses of a Western worldview through a personal engagement with Indigenous theology.*


*This volume highlights key issues in the Hebrew Scriptures from the perspective of top female biblical scholars. This includes historical critical and literary textual analysis and exegesis, particularly as viewed through feminist and intersectional interpretive lenses. Intersectional lenses include the racial/ethnic, class, Global South, postcolonial, and so forth, and their interconnections with gender.*

**General**


*In the aftermath of Barack Obama’s election, legal scholar Michelle Alexander argues that "we have not ended racial caste in America; we have merely redesigned it." By targeting black men through the War on Drugs and decimating communities of color, the U.S. criminal justice system functions as a contemporary system of racial control—relegating millions to a permanent second-class status—even as it formally adheres to the principle of colorblindness.*


*Looks at history of the Black Church in relation to LGBTQ+ community and how the church can be more welcoming.*


*In the aftermath of COVID, police brutality, cries for racial justice, and an attempted insurrection, the United States remains a divided nation. Boykin argues that at the heart of our national crises is the fear of a “darkening” America – a nation that is no longer predominately white.*

Chronicles over five decades of Bayard Rustin’s life, activism, and writings. Rustin was a close colleague of Martin Luther King Jr. and helped develop strategies of nonviolent resistance during the Civil Rights era. He was also a gay man, which caused conflict within the movement.


Immigrant rights activist Aviva Chomsky writes about how “illegality” and “undocumentedness” are concepts that were created to exclude and exploit. With a focus on US policy, she probes how people, especially Mexican and Central Americans, have been assigned this status—and to what ends.


Addresses issues of racial inequality, racial violence in US history, Coates describes what it is like to inhabit a black body in a letter addressed to his adolescent son. Largely autobiographical, Coates shares his life and learnings and seeks to help us confront our past and envision a new and different future.


Antiracist educator DiAngelo writes about the difficulty that many white people have in discussing and addressing race issues, showing that racism is not restricted to “bad people.” She names the defenses used to deflect meaningful conversations and learning, and helps one understand how to engage more constructively.


A comprehensive history of the struggle for gay and lesbian civil rights, beginning in the 1950s and including current struggles in expanding rights as well as protecting those achieved.


Glaude uses the writings and teachings of James Baldwin to help us better understand the movement for racial equality in the United States as well as provide an explanation as to why race continues to divide today.

Provides a historical overview and critical analysis of the black church and its current engagement with lesbian and gay Christians, and shares ways in which black churches can learn to reach out and confront all types of oppression—not just race—in order to do the work of the black community.


Hannah-Jones names the arrival of the first ship carrying slaves to arrive in the colony of Virginia in August 1619 as the definitive moment that continues to define race relations in the United States up until today. The essays show how the inheritance of 1619 reaches into every part of contemporary American society, from politics, music, diet, traffic, and citizenship to capitalism, religion, and democracy itself.


Informs families, churches, educators, and communities living in a nation that is becoming increasingly diverse on ways to raise their children to understand systemic racism and be active participants in transformation.


While reconciliation has long been the paradigm preferred by white Christians in addressing racial inequality, Harvey and Blackmon argue that what is needed is a shift towards a biblical call for reparations. Written specifically to assist churches and people of faith to think deeply and seek to profoundly address systemic inequality from both historical and biblical perspectives.


This book is the author’s response to the pain and confusion that men and women experience by living with gender inequality, explains what patriarchy is and isn’t, how it works, and what gets in the way of understanding and doing something about it. Johnson's simple yet powerful approach avoids the paralyzing trap of guilt, blame, anger, and defensive denial that often results from conversations about gender.


*Raised as a Southern Baptist in rural Georgia, Jones shares his own awakening to racism within US Christianity and guides the reader through the tortured history of how racism has*
become part of the DNA of white Christianity. Jones also shares stories of hope and new ways for people of faith to both recognize and address this truth.


Introduces “antiracism” as a transformative concept and practice that leads towards liberating new ways of thinking about ourselves and others. Goes beyond a simple awareness of racism to the next step: contributing to the formation of a just and equitable society.


The line from slavery to Jim Crow to the war on drugs to mass incarceration was straight and unbroken. But what of the voice to challenge it? Was there another straight and unbroken line, this one from the abolitionist movement to the civil rights struggle to the present day? This book is the fruit of a multiyear dialogue among Christian churches in the United States, addressing—from theological perspectives—mass incarceration as an issue in need of radical reform.


Practical guide with clear, actionable steps to becoming an ally in the fight for racial justice. Topics include how to have difficult conversations, how to listen to criticism without becoming defensive, why it is harmful to try and be colorblind, and how to expand your racial justice circle by joining groups led by Black women and cultivating a group of like-minded allies.


A history of the United States the centers experiences of disabled people. The repositioning of disabled persons to the heart of the story casts new light on familiar history, such as slavery and immigration, while educating on the role of ableism in the development of democracy.


Provides an account of how concepts of race are created and transformed, how they become the focus of political conflict, and how they come to shape and permeate both identities and institutions. The steady journey of the U.S. toward a majority nonwhite population, the ongoing evisceration of the political legacy of the early post-World War II civil rights movement, the initiation of the ‘war on terror’ with its attendant Islamophobia, the rise of a mass immigrants’ rights movement, the formulation of race/class/gender ‘intersectionality’ theories,
and the election and reelection of a black President of the United States are some of the many racial conditions this updated edition now covers.


Through the stories of eight individuals, the author explores the psychological, spiritual, and ritual dimensions of religious trauma among queer people. Offers insights for pastoral care and the identification of religious trauma for queer people in non-accepting religious communities.


While it seems we are in an ideal time in our country to address issues of race and inequality, the task seems impossible and it is difficult to know where to start. Olouo guides readers of all races through subjects ranging from police brutality to cultural appropriation, making the impossible seem possible: honest conversations about race.


While much progress has been made towards the quest for racial equality in the education system, there is still much work to be done. In 'I Have Been Waiting', Jennifer Simpson pays explicit attention to the ways in which systems of higher education have excluded people of color, and how white students and teachers might better address issues of race and racism in educational settings.


As a young lawyer, Stevenson founded the Equal Justice Initiative, a legal practice dedicated to defending those most desperate and in need: the poor, the wrongly condemned, and women and children trapped in the farthest reaches of our criminal justice system. One of his first cases was that of Walter McMillian, a young man who was sentenced to die for a notorious murder he insisted he didn't commit. The case drew Bryan into a tangle of conspiracy, political machination, and legal brinkmanship—and transformed his understanding of mercy and justice forever.


A look beyond factors such as race and class that points to systems of power that separate peoples into different castes, having access to different levels of power and legitimacy. Wilkerson looks historically at caste systems in America, India, and Nazi Germany to explore themes that underlie inequality across civilizations while at the same time offering hope to
move beyond artificial and destructive separations of human divisions toward hope in our common humanity.

Video/Audio clips

The Difference Between an Ally and Co-Conspiritor - https://vimeo.com/502300589


Stella Young, Disability Porn and the Objectification of Disability - https://www.ted.com/talks/stella_young_i_m_not_your_inspiration_thank_you_very_much/​transcript


Bryan Stevenson, We Need to Talk About Injustice - https://www.ted.com/talks/bryan_stevenson_we_need_to_talk_about_an_injustice?language=en

Toni Morrison Answers “Illegitimate” Question on Race - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-Kgq3F8wbYA

What Kind of Asian Are You? - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DWynJkN5HbQ

James Baldwin and William F. Buckley Debate, 1965 – https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oFeoS41xe7w


How to Explain White Supremacy to a White Supremacist, Kyle “Guante” Tran Myhre - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DbwcXDunxA8&list=LLHMJJshW9R4QdvHFp8vj-GA&index=566
Reverse Racism, by Aamer Rahman - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dw_mRaHb-M

Articles

From Chronicle of Higher Education

When Building a Diverse Leadership, Emphasize Culture, Not Quotas -

Why Faculty of Color Are Leaving Academe – Too Many Find Themselves Disenfranchised, Exhausted, and Isolated -

More Colleges Are Adding Diversity to Tenure Standards. But the Debate’s Not Settled -

Other Sources

When “Rigor” Targets Disabled Students –

When Black People are in Pain, White People Join Book Clubs -


Organizational Marks of White Supremacy Culture, by Tema Okun - chrome-extension://efaidnmbnnibpcajpcgclclefindmkaj/https://www.cwsworkshop.org/pdfs/CARC/Overview/3_White_Sup_Culture.PDF


Podcast

*Code Switch*, NPR podcast focusing on intersectionality - https://www.npr.org/sections/codeswitch/


*Seeing White*, hosted by John Biewen - https://www.sceneonradio.org/seeing-white/


Documentaries

Crip Camp (2020 documentary on differently abled teens finally feeling a sense of belonging and joining the disability rights movement)
I Am Not Your Negro (2016 documentary on the relevancy today of James Baldwin’s life and teachings)


Race: The Power of an Illusion (NPR series focusing on the myths of racial differences)

13th (2016 documentary focusing on the history of racial inequality in the United States).

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