

Anti-Racist Strategies for Supporting Black Women Rape Survivors

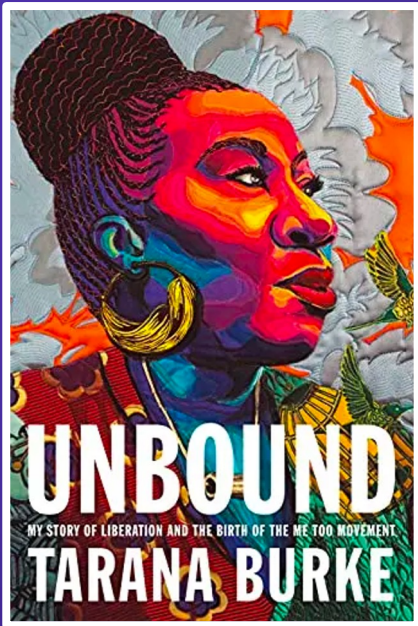
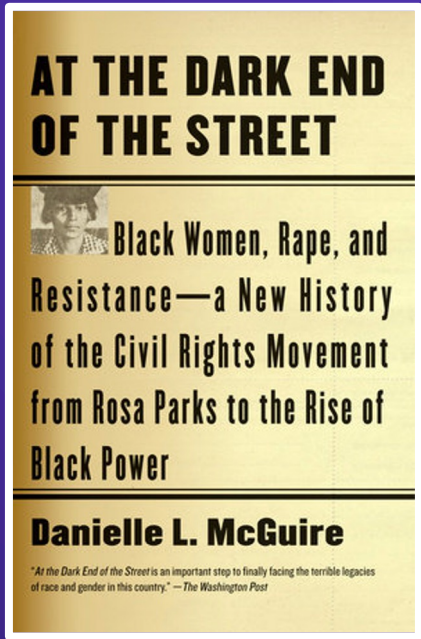
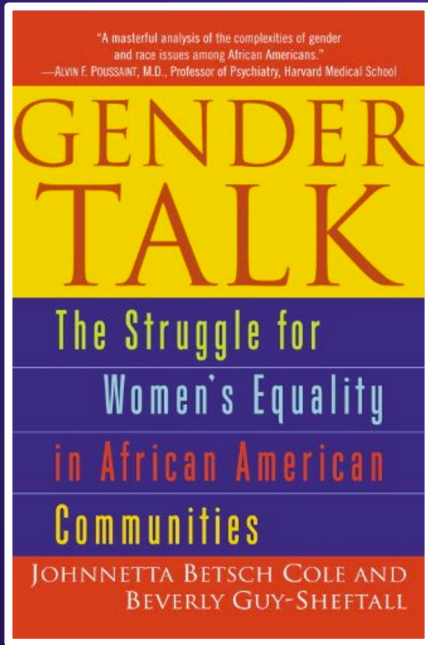
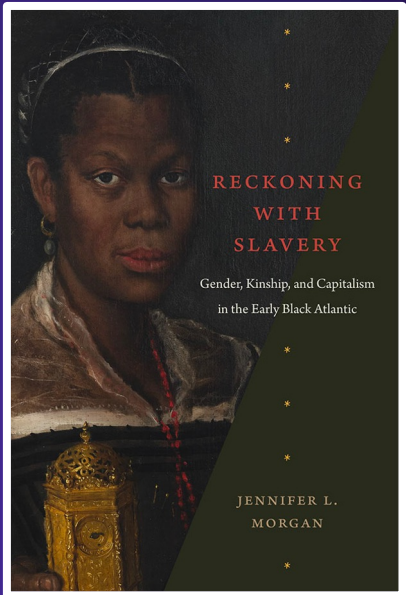
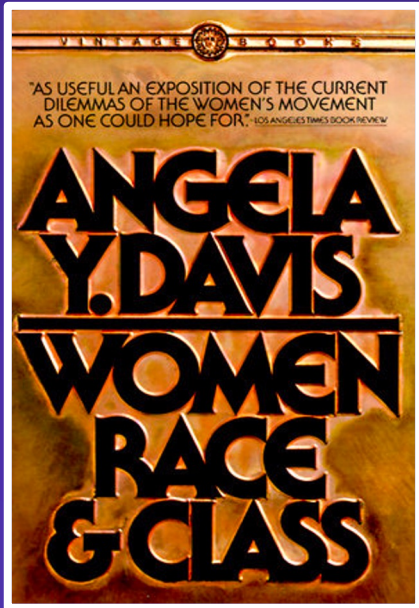
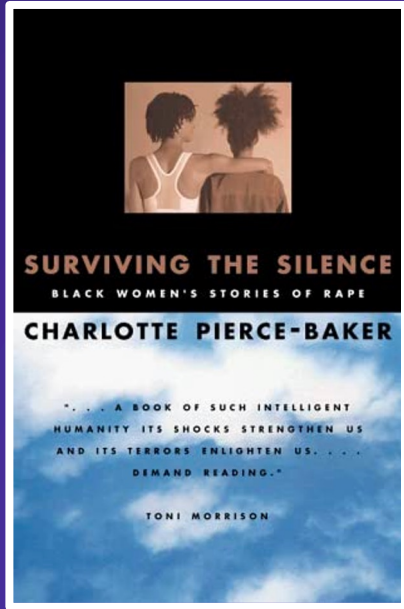
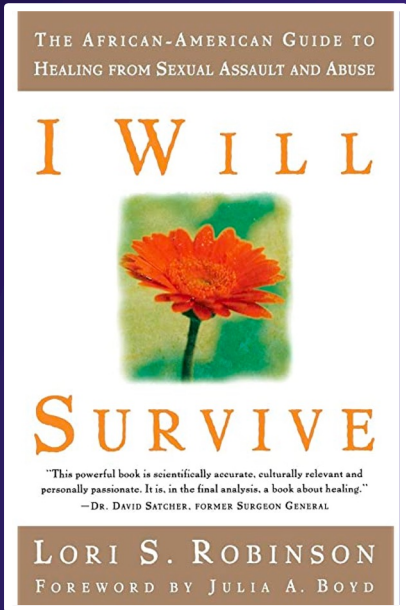


**Kijua Sanders-McMurtry, Ph.D.
Mount Holyoke College**

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Access Check-In & Positionality

- Recognizing the heaviness of the topic and the individual lived experiences of everyone in the room. Consider our proximal relationship to the topic.
- Encourage you to check in with your own breathing, ability to focus and increased stress levels or anxiety. Only you know how you are feeling about the content.
- Recognition of positionality and how this maps on identity, life histories, roles you serve in and levels of vulnerability we might experience or share in this space.



What We Will Do Together - Purpose

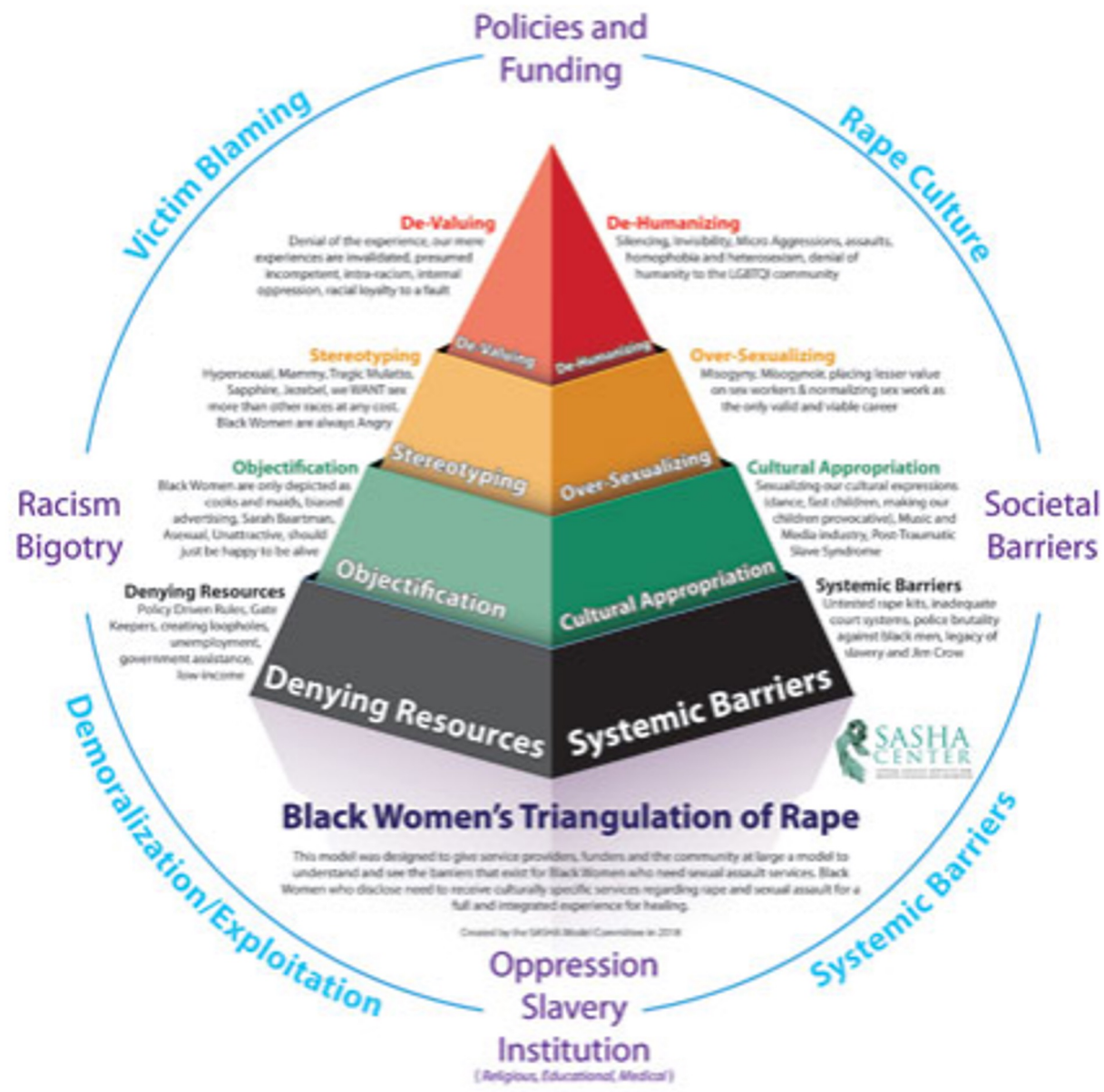
- Explore concepts of anti-racism and how they can be applicable in the work of supporting survivors.
- Examine concepts of race, its social construction and the historic legacies of rape as it relates to marginalized communities, as a case study on race/racism - we will analyze the case of Recy Taylor and contemporary linkages to the #MuteRKelly movement - we will also discuss the case of Tyler Clementi and complexities of sexual intrusion steeped in homophobia and heteronormativity.
- Create opportunities for an open dialogue on policies and practices that are rooted in cissexism, heteronormativity, racism, classism, etc.
- Discuss important strategies for developing a better understanding of the complex and nuanced support systems needed for people who experience sexual abuse and assault across the spectrums of identity.

My Positionality

- Vested Interest
- Direct Personal and Professional Experience
- Gender Based Justice Lens
- Title IX Coordinator/Equity and Inclusion
- Black Woman/Femme
- Critical Pedagogue

Phrases and Terminology

- Community Silence
- Emotional Labor
- Rape
- Sexual Assault
- Predatory
- Hegemonic/Toxic Masculinity
- Cisheteropatriarchy
- Heteronormativity
- White Supremacy



Reflective Questions

1. What are the intersections between social identity and Title IX processes?
1. What specific strategies should Title IX Coordinators explore to mitigate bias in the process of working with complainants?
1. How can history, legacy and/or bias impact the decision making process of hearing panels?

Statistics on Black Women Rape Survivors

More than 20% of Black women are raped with a higher percentage over all other women

For every 15 Black women who are sexually assaulted, only one reports her rape to law enforcement.

Over 18 percent of Black women will be assaulted in their lifetime

Black Queer and Trans women are subjected to particularistic and specific forms of significant abuse and sexual violence due to homophobia and transphobia in society

One study found that 40-60 % of Black women “report being subjected to coercive sexual contact by age 18”

1 in 5 Black women are survivors of rape

Examples of Administrator Bias

- Stereotypes about particular groups and crime
- Faith, belief systems and religious practices
- Genders and Sexualities
- Racial History and the Notion of Public Safety/Police in Communities of Color (e.g. Black Lives Matter, Undocumented Students, etc.)
- Assumptions around drinking
- Greek life
- Cultural experiences with policing
- Issues of citizenship status
- Students who are on the spectrum around psychological, physical, and mental health
- Normative behavior around relationships and identity groups

Examining Histories and Legacies

Recy Taylor, #IAmJada, and #MuteRKelly - unpacking the legacy of African American Rape Survivors



According to Trouble in Mind: Black Southerners in the Age of Jim Crow, Cole Blease, the governor of South Carolina from 1910-14, made prolific use of his pardoning powers, issuing 1,700 during his tenure. Blease pardoned both black and white men who had been convicted of attacking black women and girls. In an official pardoning statement, **Blease stated,**

“I am of the opinion, as I have always been, and have very serious doubt as to whether the crime of rape can be committed upon a negro.”

“It is no wonder that the issues of intracial sexuality and gender have long been tabooed in public discourse. At the same time, not voicing these concerns have the community especially women, bereft of the help and protection so needed.”

- Paula Giddings

The Case of Recy Taylor



\$600 To Rape Wife? Ala. Whites Make Offer To Recy Taylor Mate!

By FRED ATWATER
(Outlander Staff Correspondent)
MONTGOMERY, Ala. —
"Nigger—ain't \$600 enough
for raping your wife?"

Stocky Willie Lee Taylor
considered it.

He talked to white Marvin
White, who wanted him to forget
prosecuting the six white men who
raped and ruptured Recy, his 24-
year-old wife.

White spoke for his clients, all
youths from prominent Abbeville
families who had been identified by
Recy. They were Hugo Wilson,
Penute Hastings, Sam Skippy,
Mollie Hilder, Dillard York and
Luther Lee.

They were willing to pay \$100
each if Recy Taylor would forget
it, White said.

By then the rape of Recy, mother
of a two-year-old daughter, had
become known in every town in
Alabama and every Negro commu-
nity in the state. The Grand
Jury was to meet within a week
to act upon one of the few cases
ever to be brought to court of white
youths raping a Negro woman.

White repeated his offer of \$100
for each man as a "settlement."

Willie blurted out "No." But that
didn't end it. White came back
and again after more pressure and
threats had been leveled at the
Taylors and Willie said, "Come
back later and I'll tell you." He
came back later and Willie an-
swered "Yes."

Defendants Dismissed

Willie may as well have stock to
his first no. For the Grand Jury
called on October 9, 1944, dismissed

VICTIM OF WHITE ALABAMA RAPISTS



First published photo of Mrs. Recy Taylor,
victim of six white rapists in Alabama, and
her little family is this picture received from
their refuge in an Alabama city some distance

from their hometown of Abbeville, where the
crime occurred. With the young mother is her
daughter, little Jayce Lee Taylor and her hus-
band, Willie Guy Taylor.

The Case of #IAmJada

- Black girlhood research often demonstrates the vulnerability and precarity of Black girls because of their “adultification”
- In the case of Jada, there is also a generational component of the abuse via social media including the #JadaPose
- When considering the rise of #MuteRKelly movement and the decades where he was allowed to be a predator, we are reminded of the challenges with how Black girls experiences are negated

HER RAPE WENT VIRAL.

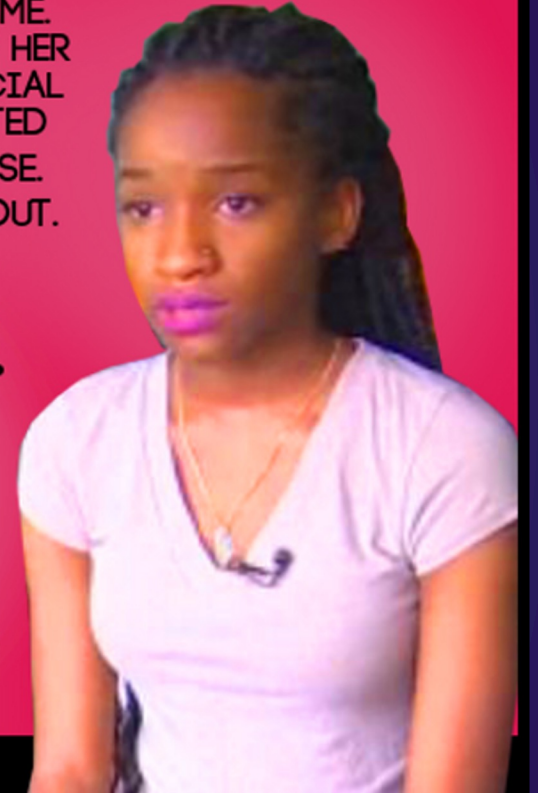
16-YEAR-OLD JADA WAS DRUGGED, UNDERESSED, AND RAPED AT FRIEND'S HOME. WHEN THE PICTURES THEY HAD TAKEN OF HER UNCONSCIOUS BODY SURFACED ON SOCIAL MEDIA, PEOPLE LAUGHED AND REPLICATED THE PHOTOS, TAGGING THEM #JADAPOSE. JADA HAS BRAVELY CHOSEN TO SPEAK OUT.

RAPE ISN'T FUNNY.

SO WHY IS IT THAT RAPE VICTIMS CONTINUE TO BE PUBLICLY MOCKED ALL OVER THE COUNTRY?

SEE ALSO: STEUBENVILLE, DAISY COLEMAN, RACHEL BRADSHAW-BEAN, VANDERBILT UNI RAPE, NORWOOD HAZING

I STAND WITH JADA. DO YOU?



"Between 1940 and 1975, sexual violence and interracial rape became one crucial battleground upon which African Americans sought to destroy white supremacy and gain personal and political autonomy. ... If we understand the role rape and sexual violence played in African Americans' daily lives and within the larger freedom struggle, we have to reinterpret, if not rewrite, the history of the civil rights movement."

- Danielle McGuire

Anti-Racist Considerations

Understanding the specific racialized experiences of Black women and femmes (historically marginalized, targeted and vulnerable) is a reality that TIXC should consciously seek to be aware of

Recognizing that there is no monolithic experience for Black women but that stereotypes, tropes and historical manifestations of harm exist within the context of state violence and thus are influential in the experiences of Black women who may move through the Title IX process

Anti-Racist Considerations

- Inclusive training models that incorporate examples with students of diverse identities in case studies and/or for discussion with Title IX Team.
- Composition of the Title IX Team in terms of visibility and identities is critical.
- Open dialogues around the role identities play within cases.
- Diversity education (anti-bias training) of the Title IX teams and professionals is critical (*considerations of gender and sexuality, racialized experiences, religious differences, and targeted and vulnerable populations is essential*)
- For hearing boards, recognizing that learning edges exist around all sorts of issues that may come up in a case is vital.

Anti-Racist Strategies for TIXC in support of Black Women Rape Survivors

- Be sure you have culturally relevant and specific resources for Black women rape survivors (therapyforblackgirls.com)
- Acknowledge that survivors may have multiple marginalized identities that are distinctly different and overlapping.
- Address where your policies may perpetuate inequities.
- Create restorative justice/transformational justice opportunities for resolution
- Keep track of how Black women rape survivors report their interactions with systems by disaggregating your data
- Partner with student organizations and community based organizations
- Be sure the language you use and programs you create support the complexity and nuance of the experiences of Black women rape survivors.