LETS TALK ABOUT GEORGE FLOYD
Systemic Racism in the United States Today

Tuesday, October 24, 2023
USC Fisher Museum of Art Courtyard
University of Southern California

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Toluse Olorunnipa, co-author of the biography His Name Is George Floyd, will discuss structural, institutional, and systemic racism with USC sociology professor Brittany Friedman, USC law professor Jody David Armour, and USC student moderator Kymia Freeman.
- This event is presented in conjunction with the exhibition Kara Walker: Cut to the Quick, on view at the USC Fisher Museum of Art through December 9, 2023.

HIS NAME IS GEORGE FLOYD

His Name Is George Floyd is a biography of George Floyd by journalists Robert Samuels and Toluse Olorunnipa. Looking at his family’s history as well as the ways contemporary U.S. systems of law, education, health care, mass incarceration, housing, and more shaped his life, the biography tells George Floyd’s personal story in the context of the social and economic systems in which he lived and died. His Name Is George Floyd won the 2023 Pulitzer Prize for nonfiction.

VOCABULARY CORNER

individual racism — personal beliefs, attitudes, and actions that support and perpetuate racism

institutional racism — policies or behaviors within an organization that result in racial inequities or that are intended to discriminate against people of color or create advantages based on race

structural racism — racial inequities across institutions, policies, social structures, history, and society

systemic racism — systemic racism encompasses institutional and structural racism

As defined by: “How to Explain Structural, Institutional, and Systemic Racism,” MSW@USC blog; Being Antiracist, National Museum of African American History and Culture; What Is Racial Equity?, Race Forward

“Since we know George Floyd’s death with tragic clarity, we must know Floyd’s America—and life—with tragic clarity.”

— Ibram X. Kendi, author of How to Be an Antiracist
ABOUT THE PANELISTS

Toluse “Tolu” Olorunnipa is the White House Bureau Chief of The Washington Post, and co-author of His Name Is George Floyd. He previously worked at Bloomberg News and the Miami Herald. He is a Pulitzer Prize winner and has been honored with the George Polk Award for Justice Reporting, a Peabody Award, and the Shaufler Prize from Arizona State University.

Jody David Armour is the Roy P. Crocker Professor of Law at USC. A widely published scholar and popular lecturer, he studies the intersection of race, law, morality, psychology, politics, ordinary language philosophy, and the performing arts.

Brittany Friedman is an assistant professor of sociology at USC, Faculty Fellow at the Equity Research Institute and the Sol Price Center for Social Innovation, and co-founder of the Captive Money Lab and Co-PI. She researches race and ethnicity, inequality, institutional predation, and access to justice.

Kymia Freeman (moderator) is a junior at the USC Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism.

FOR FURTHER REFLECTION

- What are some of the ways structural racism shaped George Floyd’s life?
- Has structural racism shaped your life? How?
- What would a just society be like? How would it be different from the current society? What would it feel like to live in a just society? What might it take to get there?

IF YOU LIKED THIS EVENT, YOU MIGHT WANT TO CHECK OUT:

- Upcoming Visions and Voices events:
  1/2/23: Graphic Medicine: Comics as Tools for Advocacy and Self-Reflection – An Afternoon with Shirlene Obuobi
  12/2/23: The Upcycled Self: An Evening with Black Thought from The Roots
  1/19/24: Nobody Knows: (Un)Muted Voices – 43rd Annual USC Celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
  2/28/24: waheedworks: Bodies as Site of Faith and Protest

- Classes in the USC Department of American Studies and Ethnicity
donrsife.usc.edu/ase
- USC Center for Black Cultural and Student Affairs cbcsa.usc.edu
- USC Arts in Action artsinaction.usc.edu

WHAT IS THE DISTINCTION BETWEEN RACIAL EQUITY AND RACIAL JUSTICE?

Race Forward, an organization dedicated to dismantling structural racism, says:

“Racial Justice is a vision and transformation of society to eliminate racial hierarchies and advance collective liberation, where Black, Indigenous, Latinx, Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders, in particular, have the dignity, resources, power, and self-determination to fully thrive.

Racial equity is a process of eliminating racial disparities and improving outcomes for everyone. It is the intentional and continual practice of changing policies, practices, systems, and structures by prioritizing measurable change in the lives of people of color.

... Racial equity is the process for moving towards the vision of racial justice. Racial equity seeks measurable milestones and outcomes that can be achieved on the road to racial justice. Racial equity is necessary, but not sufficient, for racial justice.”
DISCOVER MORE AT THE USC LIBRARIES

Adam Sexton of the USC Libraries selected the following resources to help you learn more about this event. Electronic resources are accessible through the search bar on the USC Libraries homepage at libraries.usc.edu but may require the user to log in using their USC credentials.

BOOKS
- Robert Samuels, *His Name is George Floyd: One Man’s Life and the Struggle for Racial Justice* (New York: Penguin, 2022)

DATABASES
- African American Communities
- Encyclopedia of American Studies
- Oxford African American Studies Center
- Umbra: Search African American History

JOURNAL
- African and Black Diaspora

STREAMING MEDIA
- *Say His Name: Five Days for George Floyd* (Good Docs, 2021)