

# LET'S 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

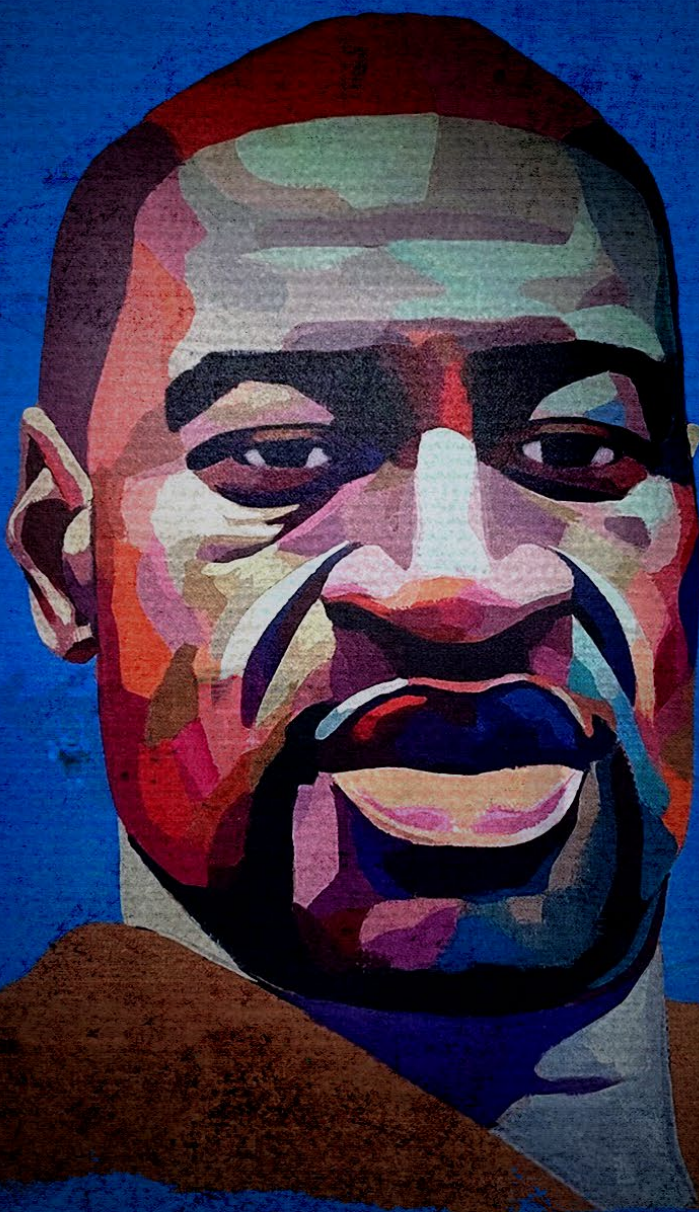
**structural racism** — racial inequities across institutions, policies, social structures, history, and society

**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](#)
  - 11/19/23:** [The Met in HD: X: \*The Life and Times of Malcolm X\*](#)
  - 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  
[dornsife.usc.edu/ase](https://dornsife.usc.edu/ase)
- USC Center for Black Cultural and Student Affairs  
[cbcsa.usc.edu](https://cbcsa.usc.edu)
- USC Arts in Action  
[artsinaction.usc.edu](https://artsinaction.usc.edu)

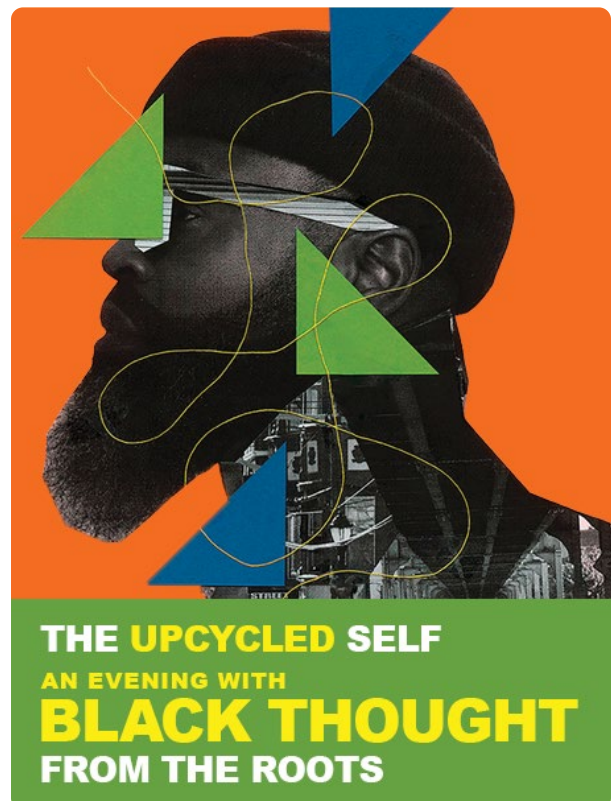
## WHAT IS THE DISTINCTION BETWEEN RACIAL EQUITY AND RACIAL JUSTICE?

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.”



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## 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](http://libraries.usc.edu) but may require the user to log in using their USC credentials.

### BOOKS

- ⦿ Jennifer T. Butcher, [\*Addressing Issues of Systemic Racism During Turbulent Times\*](#) (Hershey: IGI Global, 2021)
- ⦿ Joe R. Feagin, [\*Systemic Racism: A Theory of Oppression\*](#) (New York: Routledge, 2006)
- ⦿ Walter R. Jacobs et al., [\*Sparked: George Floyd, Racism, and the Progressive Illusion\*](#) (St. Paul: Minnesota Historical Society Press, 2021)
- ⦿ Robert Samuels, [\*His Name is George Floyd: One Man's Life and the Struggle for Racial Justice\*](#) (New York: Penguin, 2022)
- ⦿ Bagoes Wiryomartono, [\*Globalization, Urbanization, and Civil Society: A Non-Western Critique\*](#) (London: Routledge, 2023)

### 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)

