

Notes on Homelessness and Poverty:

Homeless Count

- Homeless Count in the City of Vancouver
- counts have been taken place across Vancouver every three years since 2002
- annual count since 2010
- Each year this count takes place across the city in March over a 24 hour period (includes those located in shelters and on the streets)
- volunteers are involved in this process (train over 400 volunteers to participate)
- Includes a anonymous survey done by those within the homeless community
- This is done to see the condition and circumstance of those experiencing homelessness and how it has changed and continues to change
- in 2021 this count was not possible due to the pandemic
- On March 3rd of 2020 it was found that:
- 2,095 residents had identified themselves as homeless
- 547 people were living on the street
- 1,548 people had found residence in locations such as emergency shelters, detox centers, safe houses and hospitals (no fixed address)

The Faces of Homelessness Across BC

- Homelessness occurs in suburbs and cities along with small rural communities
- Most visible are those who are living on the streets → can also be found in poor quality housing where they are at risk of homelessness
- Homelessness is not limited to those people who are at high risk → since the 1980s the group of people who comprise this population became more diverse
- rises in inflation, rent and unemployment → all causes of homelessness
- Other factors include reduced eligibility for social assistance, cutbacks in housing provided by the government and lack of low cost housing

Subgroups Found within the homeless population:

Families:

- one of the fastest growing groups within shelters
- reasoning for this relates to rise in poverty, the changing of job markets, lack of affordable housing
- More reasons include, cuts involved in social programs and the reduced availability in the rental market
- Issues with family and abuse are the main reason behind youth homelessness
- Note has been taken concerning a rise in mental health issues or addiction problems found among youth

Abused Women/their Families:

- Experience many of the same risks involved in homelessness

- Differences between abused/non abused families: main difference concerns safety and emotional impact
- 20% of women who end up leaving abusive partners experience still continue to live violence during and after the separation occurs
- Abuse becomes more severe → when picking up or dropping off children in custody related situation - may require special arrangements to ensure safety
- Shelter system is not always a safe place for women - typically end up couch surfing over at friends homes
- There are those who end up in the sex trade

Immigrants and Refugees:

- Many are unable to find suitable/affordable housing
- no family networks - left behind in their home country
- may not end up on the street, could end up in housing conditions that are unsafe
- Many cases where there are number of families living in the same apartment in order to save money
- Refugee claimants which are about 50% of all those refugees who live in Canada, do not receive any support until they have done an interview with the immigration office and are able to apply for permanent residency
- Those who are claimants are considered to be the most at risk as they don't have access to things such as settlement services or financial assistance
- Most arrive in Canada with very little or no money and the process through which they must go through can take up to a year or longer, especially if an appeal is required
- Language training is also required, along with receiving help to get required documentation in order to start looking for work and finding housing

Indigenous Peoples in BC:

- over represented amongst homeless communities
- Estimated that around 40% of Indigenous peoples are at risk of homelessness and about 23% are actually homeless
- Affected by the same factors along with the historical/colonial legacy that has changed Indigenous ways of living due to the uprooting of families and communities through systems such as residential schools, the child welfare system, along with economic and social exclusion from mainstream society

People with Severe Addictions/Mental Illness:

- can be found in all the subgroups above
- 33% - 60% of the homeless population
- 11% are diagnosed with schizophrenia
- Approx 136,000 adults in BC have either a severe addiction or mental illness. With 8,000 to 15,500 of these same people being homeless on the street
- Debate whether or not homelessness is a result or cause of mental illness
- lack of basic necessities can trigger mental illness

- the ongoing nature of severe mental illness: ie difficulty finding employment or keeping their jobs
- without a regular income people end up relying on federal benefit programs that do not provide them enough money when it comes to food and shelter costs
- additionally people with mental illnesses are not likely to be covered by these programs
- While receiving assistance from these programs, if an interruption should occur ie through relapses than an increased homelessness is likely to occur

Other Reasons for Rises in Homelessness:

- Closing of institutions where people were receiving help for mental illnesses ie Riverview Hospital
- Poor planning as it concerns discharge or follow up systems, after those leave criminal justice systems
- Changes in economic factors ie housing markets

Notes on Climate Change and Packaging/Litter

Not only a green issue

- Hardly anything in the world today that is not packaged in plastic
- The threat of climate change is also imminent → what are the solutions?
- two main issues - one is in how these packages are made, the other is what happens when they are no longer in use
- lack of landfill to bury used plastic → serious contribution to greenhouse gasses which are caused by the disposal of certain kinds of plastics
- The biggest barrier believed by Terry Robins is finding the funding to create ecologically friendly packaging
- This is an important factor when it comes to enforcing supermarket laws between 1999 and 2003
- Biodegradability is something which has become increasingly important for several reasons → some see it for economic reasons, some for diverting away from the places such as the landfill, while others see it as a tick in the box
- Some wish to limit the amount of packaging → but this could be seen to economic reasons, such as packaging obligations
- it is not likely that packaging regulations will be the force to cause reductions in packaging → cost is a major factor
- Packaging consultant John Webb-Jenkins is skeptical of the whole notion of green packaging → this is because when products such as organic foods are sold, the packaging needs to work in coordination with it in terms of its marketing and sales of products such as organic foods
- Organic food is essentially substituted with one set of contaminants in place of the other, it is all a matter of marketing

- The Irish bag tax was introduced several years ago as a means of solving problems of excessive litter which was deemed by the government to be the result of free plastic bags that were given out → so the bill stated that those same plastic bags were to be returned, otherwise a fee was to be paid (did not apply to bags that were non plastic)
- initial backlash but it soon died down
- Good idea as there was a litter problem, with the main culprit being plastic bags
- This first led to huge queues at checkout counters → led to people purchasing more bags or taking their groceries home in cardboard boxes (less cardboard boxes being recycled as they were instead being put in the garbage)
- Many started using paper bags instead as they were exempt from the return cycle → had to be imported into Ireland
- Paper takes up more space than plastic → meaning bigger warehouses were needed to help with storage- this meant more energy used to run these places, which also results increased exhaust emissions (paper takes twice as much energy to manufacture)
- People are instead buying garbage bags in stores, instead of using ones they receive from the store
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- Creating packs from nature
- one example of natural packaging is Poly Lactic Acid (PLA), a material that is grown from corn and formed through a fermentation process that can be shaped to create a variety of different packaging
- Only issue is that some of the corn it is made from comes from the US and is genetically modified → once PLA goes through the fermentation process the GM signature is lost
- This PLA material was not immune to the tax that was being implemented in the UK
- A company called Euro Packaging formed a partnership with the company → offer the UK, EU, and US market products that are comprised of natural replacements for packaging material
- PLA solutions can replace almost all plastic items
- however as the tech is still relatively new, it is quite expensive to produce
- Have to find retail customers who agree with the marketing and or brand benefit
- Some who they are working in coordination with those selling this packaging to convey their message to consumers
- Many parts of the world have been working together to deal with the packaging problem ex. Germany has a developed a strong system when it comes to recycling
- Similarly the Netherlands → PLA materials are seen as acceptable forms of compostable material
- People looking to implement this same system that is used by the Dutch elsewhere → only problem is that they don't have the infrastructure set up yet
- There has been some excitement from governmental bodies with PLA → Euro packaging ended up being sponsored by the Department of Transport and Industry (DTI) to make these products
- There have been several retailers in both the UK and the US who have implemented this packaging and have found benefits from promoting it (ie posters etc)

- it is believed that one of the barriers that is holding back PLA is an unawareness of what it is → retailers are the first point of contact, but they often need the persuasion of the consumer to use this as a product (ie consumers not understanding the difference between the packaging)
- In order for change to occur, the consumer of these products needs to understand its reasoning → up to the consumer to understand these differences
- If the consumer is the one who decides that they would like to have a choice of these products, it then puts pressure on retailers to provide them
- Euro packaging also produces bags for Gap and other retail brands
- Leaves in Malaysia being ground into pulp in order to create packaging containers, rather than burning the leaves which end up creating greenhouse gasses
- The reality is that often in order to make products that are degradable, various chemicals need to be added to it to break it down → question is that do you want to do this - is it not better to recycle these objects if you can (many materials are not biodegradable but degradable)
- Incineration: modern incinerators control the harmful gasses from emissions → more dioxins that have gone into than the atmosphere with cattle, than there have ever with plastics
- Ex. In Sheffield, they have housing estates that are run with incinerators → while other countries like Denmark and the Netherlands do not have any kind of landfill sites
- need public support to implement things such as incinerators
- Retailers have a choice and they can pass the choice to their customers
- At the current time you will not see a retail company going fully compostable as it is not affordable at this time → need to work on that
- Robins thinks the solution to this is to look at grown crops (similarly to how PLA is made) → believes that this is the future direction of the industry
- York University runs a project funded by the DTI called the National Non-Food Crop center which looks at and considers what crops can be used as non-food products such as bio-diesel, packaging or clothing
- Government has been helping with DTI, and have set similar like minded small groups to sit down and talk about different ways to improve the industry

Canada the Great White North where Anti-Black Racism Thrives: Kicking Down the Doors and Exposing the Realities

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- Criticism by Canadians for welfare policies, police brutality, race-related tensions and racism in the United States → compare those to Canada

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- Narcissistic discourse for what Canada stands for in terms of human right
- BLM protest in Toronto - negative anonymous online responses ie that “These protests have no business being held in Canada. Our police are nowhere near as racist as American Police.” (CBC News 2015, “Black Lives...”)

- Canada has a history of its own historical graveyards → pushing things down and not addressing them
- “Don’t protest because it’s cool”. Keep your perceived problems to yourself.”
- These racist comments do well to demonstrate the extermination and assimilation of Indigenous peoples (Mathur, et. al 2011) racist Chinese head tax (Winter 2008, 122) refusing to allow the Komagata Maru to dock (Johnston 1989, 18); Japanese internment camp (Macallister 2006, 133); secretly testing Caribbean domestic workers for syphilis (Calliste 1993, 85-99); and destroying Africville, (Clairmont 1992, 136)
- More recently the federal government has implemented the Anti-terrorism Act (Government of Canada 2015, Anti-Terror...) which targets and discriminates against racialized people → refused to recognize Omar Khadr as a child soldier (Government of Canada v. Khadrn 2010)
- Discontinued refugee claimant social programs (Bateman 2015) and fingerprints selected visitors to Canada (Chose 2015) → only a few of many examples
- Continued war against black bodies → often results in injury and death → not a surprise give other acts of violence against various groups of Canadians

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Part 1 - Counter-Stories

- August 10th 1996?, 37 year-old Audrey Smith, a tourist in Canada, public sector worker and mother of five from Jamaica was strip searched → streets of downtown Toronto
- She was approached by Toronto police officers, accused of having drugs, she denied these claims, handcuffed/placed in the police cruiser
- Denied her claims that she was innocent → she had consented to what she believed would be a search at a police station → instead they strip searched her on a busy Parkdale neighborhood street in Toronto → released when the police officers were unable to find drugs on her person
- After being released - male witness confronted her with sexually degrading descriptions of her genitals
- Audrey’s small community in Spanish Town Jamaica, she was known to be hard working/faith filled person of the community, but when news of this strip search in Canada came out, led to questions about the degradation of her character
- She had to return several times on her as court proceedings were occurring
- Aid of constables Tracey Peters, Michael Sommer and Michael Dulmage (officers involved in this incident) her character was reduced to that of a drug dealer and a sex worker
- A three person inquiry panel cleared all three police officers of discreditable conduct charges in September of 1995
- According to Nangwaya, after the verdict, Audrey remarked “Just because I stood up for my rights I have been called a prostitute, a drug dealer. They (the police officers) treat me like a dog. And now the panel is backing them. I can’t believe this. This is not justice.” (Ibid.)

Michael Wade Lawson:

- December 8, 1988, a black youth, 17 year old Michael Wade Lawson, was shot dead in the back of his head by Peel Constable Anthony Lelaragni, 24 and his partner Constable darren Longpre, 27 → they were charged with manslaughter and aggravated assault
- Killed by a bullet known as a “hot bullet” which is said to expand on contact, and was banned in Ontario by the Ontario Police themselves
- Officers were chasing Lawson in a stolen car and had claimed that he was driving towards them
- the charges ended up being dismissed for both of the officers

Part II - Theoretical Orientation

- In this paper they define anti-black racism as it is described by the African Canadian Legal Clinic (ACLC), Canada’s only legal aid service specifically and exclusively mandated to address systemic anti-Black racism → defines this as (African Canadian Legal Clinic 2002):
- “Anti-black racism is prejudice, stereotyping and discrimination that is directed at people of African descent and is rooted in their unique history and experience of enslavement. Anti-black racism in Canada is often subtle and is generally not accompanied by overt racial slurs or explicitly prohibitive legislation. However, it is deeply entrenched in Canadian institutions, policies and practices, such that anti-black racism is either functionally normalized or rendered invisible to the larger white society. Canadian Anti-black racism in its contemporary form continues the historical practices of racial segregation, economic disadvantage and social division.” (Morgan and Bullen 2015)
- “Anti-black racism is manifested in the legacy of the current social, economic and political marginalization of African Canadians in society such as the lack of opportunities, lower socio-economic status, higher unemployment, significant poverty rates and overrepresentation in the criminal justice system.”
- Statistics evidencing the existence of anti-black racism (particularly in areas of public safety/administrative discipline) includes the following: 1) practice of carding (Toronto police stop and question/collect personal info of peoples not involved with a crime)
- 2012 analysis - African Canadians - target of almost 25% of all matters relating to carding between 2003 -08
- 2008 - mid 011 - African Canadian males (Toronto) carded 3.4 times higher than the city’s actual population of African Canadian young men
- Reported in July 2014, that since July 2013 carding had dropped by 75%
- After the July 2013 drop in carding numbers, the proportion of contact cards for African Canadians rose to 27.4 percent
- May 31st 2005 to May 2015 - population of African Canadians in federal prisons has increased by 77.5% whereas the white population decreased by 6.8%
- Black segregation admissions (black people who are admitted into federal penitentiary directly and confined in isolation) → grown at a faster rate than the incarceration rate of the population of black offenders
- During this same period, the number of segregation admissions for African Canadian inmates has more than doubled (100.4%) while it has decreased for the white population by 6.1% (23-24)

- Largest Canadian school board in Toronto - African Canadian students - make up approx 12% of high school students yet they are over represented in suspension rates - 31% of all suspensions - Toronto District School Board (TDSB)
- Percentage of primary school students suspended in 2011-12 was 1.5% → suspension rate for white students was 0.5
- In TDSB high schools the rate of suspension in 2011-12 was 8.6% for white high school students it was 29%
- In Quebec and Nova Scotia - well documented as cities where anti-black racism is pervasive within Canadian society and criminal justice institutions
- Anti-black racism is characterized by particularly virulent and pervasive racial stereotypes
- These stereotypes can consciously or unconsciously shape behaviors, actions and attitudes towards people
- The stereotypes of the black male include as being prone to criminality and violence and being “dangerous”
- While the black female is typically stereotyped as being irrationally angry, involved in sex work, and prone to steal and defraud systems to obtain government benefits
- These are routinely reinforced and perpetuated by the mass media, in Canadian institutions and underpin the systemic discrimination against African Canadians in the criminal justice system and other spheres in society
- Effective framework of analysis for detecting and appreciating anti-black racism is Critical Race Theory (CRT)
- CRT can be characterized as a “race-conscious approach to examining law and the legal system” and their implication in the marginalization and subordination of racialized peoples
- “Principal theme of CRT, then, is the recognition that the common ways and means by which society is ordered and governed is not race-neutral, but rather structured in ways that directly and indirectly sustain white supremacy and, in the case of people of African descent contribute to and perpetuate the exclusion, disadvantage and exploitation of black people and communities”
- One of the core tenets of CRT is the centralizing of the voices, experiences and perspectives of racialized people and using this practice to frame and direct the assessment of dominant social, political, economic and legal norms, systems, institutions and practices
- “To bridge the gap such an approach often creates a distinction between the individuals from dominant power groups and subordinated racialized peoples and their respective experiences, CRT typically relies on “counter storytelling.”” (24-25)

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- ““Counterstorytelling” by critical race theorists is undertaken through the use of parables, autobiography, “counterstories” and alternative narrative to attack dominantly entrenched social preconceptions, myths, beliefs and narratives that marginalize racialized others or conceal their humanity in ways that justify and/or encourage their oppression”
- Example of “counterstorytelling” is the stories which were shared earlier in this article: cases of Audrey Smith and Wade Lawson

Part III - Policing Black Bodies

- Black bodies in Canada are routinely policed across borders both in public and private spaces, including the media → techniques that are used to stereotype and stigmatize, harass and discriminate against African Canadians
- Although men are featured prominently in the media, it is also important to note the many ways in which black women's bodies are also marked and policed
- Gazing at/marketing the bodies of both black women and men serve to disquiet the Eurocentric excessive mellow drama rooted in the fear of the black body and pre-emptedly punish those bodies under the guise of their perceived criminality regardless of proof

Fear of the Black Body

- Media - one of the few sources of info that many individuals have in order to gather info about African Canadians
- Mainstream Canadian media are white owned and controlled → as an institution, the media has historically and continue to be racist and discriminatory
- "George Yancy warns that white gaze is "a process of seeing without being seen, that constructs the black body into its own colonial imaginary."

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- Canadians - gazers who control what the Canadian public sees, hears and reads while African Canadians are the ones being looked at rather than being the lookers (helped by the media)
- Violence in all communities - media over publicizes violence in black communities using racial stereotypes in a manner to maintain white supremacy and portray black men suspects as outsiders and inferior in comparison to white men
- When racial identity is omitted from media reports; racial stereotypes, cultural and "ethnic: associated terms - embeded in these reports - provide evidence for individuals to think negatively about specific groups of peoples
- Ex. with jerk chicken → the writers (comments online) are responding to media representation "that have constructed Jamaicans as people from crime-ridden and poverty stricken countries" → no understanding that many black people in Canada are Canadian born
- Media's excessive reports of gun violence among African Canadian men helps to shape the discourse that black men create social problems that threatens the safety, harmony, and ultimately the humanity of the presumably white Canadian society

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- Crime reporters work in coordination with the police and must report news in a way to present the police's actions and legitimate and fair
- In the provided example - focusing on gun shooting and killing - place on young African Canadian men - further perpetuates the perceived excessive violence among this groups - suggesting that they are violent criminals that should be feared
- Fear of the black body is motivated by differently cultivated myths
- The white supremacist Apartheid regime in South Africa - partial foundation of white fear based on "the need to control the physical threat posed by what constantly portrayed as an uncivilized black majority"

- In Canada, the media presents African Canadians in a similar fashion, continually painting pictures of unemployed, welfare recipients, drug traffickers, irresponsible fathers, amoral mothers and gun slinging maniacs as overarching dangerous social misfits
- Whites disproportionately project racial stereotypes of criminality and aggression towards blacks more than any other racialized groups → makes sense that “The wanton violence and racist utterances attributed to some black perpetrators reinforces the belief that violent crime is inseparable from racial antagonism
- The fear that drives white sensibilities is predicated on the brutality of the crime when a black person commits it
- Also in media/pop culture ie violence in films such as Kill Bill → only minor attention is given to the violence in these works by movie critics and activists groups → originates from white entertainers and movie producers in comparison to Rhianna’s “Bitch Better Have my Money” music video which was held under scrutiny
- The fear of black body puts African Canadians at risk for unfair public attacks when violence is reported involving black persons

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- Caribbean festival - shootings at a nightclub with a diverse group of people - people said that the Caribbean festival was at fault for this, even though the night club was not affiliated with the festival
- Article about the shooting, mentions that a young thirteen year old white boy was shot → example of white fright
- Goodall (the article writer) → hostility/anger was similarly reported in a study that revealed anger/frustration among white US male college students who displayed “racial victimization” and argued that their rights and freedoms were being eroded and that put them at a disadvantage
- Another spoke of “Toronto the good” → time before there were significant increases in black and racialized populations
- “white melancholy” → similar to the Swedish wish to revert to a hegemonic white national identity described by Hubinette and Lundstrom and the nostalgia of white South Africa where they wish for the old days of white safety enclaves
- In reference to the article, another commentator wrote that this wasn’t the Toronto they knew and that in the 80s she felt safe riding the subway alone → forgot to mention serial rapists such as Paul Bernardo and Karla Homolka among others such as Robert Pickton
- While white men are implicated in some of the most horrific crimes, typically on other white people, black children have remained the poster children for violent criminals in Canada

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- Reinventing themselves allows white Canadians to bury and deny the disgraceful fact that Canadians live on occupied territories stolen from Indigenous peoples
- Premise aligned with Thompson’s arguments that “at the heart of racism are attempts of the perpetrators to deny knowledge of themselves as violent aggressors, morally destitute, even barbaric.”

- White dominated media guarantees that the reproduction of anti-black racism is enacted through over-representation of black male violence which in turn fuels public mistrust, hostility, suspicion and fear of the black body.

Pre-empted Punishing the Black Body

- Black women are gazed upon/pushed out
- Black men are gazed upon and killed
- Bodies of African Canadians are punished in various ways; they are beaten, brutalized, sexualized, shot, killed, imprisoned, detained, separated, expelled, suspended isolated, searched, targeted and denied
- This includes strip searching black women such as the case with Audrey Smith, apprehending and separating black children from their families by placing them in the care of the child welfare system, employment discrimination and racial profiling, shooting dead and overrepresentation in the criminal justice system, and serving longer prison sentences than whites
- Mckittrick: “Anti-black violence within the Americas is, bound up in a range of death-dealing activities: the subtleties of slow bloodless genocides, imprisonment, racial profiling and police brutalities, poverty, environmental racism, and community bloodshed”
- Along with the profiling street checks, expulsion and isolation, geographic surveillance is a tool that is liberally used to maintain state presence in black communities (29-30)

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- Morgan and Bullen states: “African Canadians are subjected to heightened scrutiny by police and have their communities and lives disproportionately monitored and surveilled by the police and policing activities. This has led to disproportionate contact of African Canadians with the police, resulting in a disproportionate accumulation of non-conviction records among African Canadians
- Surveillance - disrupts the community/sense of self and belonging
- Heightened reporting of black gun violence - motivation/rationale for the state to over-police by surveying black communities
- Activities are introduced into poorer black neighbourhoods where community policing is framed as sports day barbeques where police officers play games and serve fast food → this is a gateway or authority which allows them to implement what appears to be friendly content with black youth and children - however friendliness often turn violent, aggressive, hostile and deadly for African Canadians within the context of surveillance
- Black men and women are gazed upon differently and their bodies are disciplined differently regardless of space and time

Black Women - Gazed Upon and Pushed Out

- Black women as “baby hatchers” or as “welfare queens” is prominent in Canada and motivates a deep scrutiny of black women’s bodies and result in them being pushed out as a form of punishment
- Ex. Ms. Baker, a Jamaican mother and domestic worker - entered Canada as a domestic workers - applied to remain in Canada under humanitarian and compassionate grounds after becoming ill - stereotyped as amoral and worthless
- Immigratoin officers note reflected that she is a paranoid schizophrenic on welfare - that she has no qualifications other than as a domestic - four children in Jamaica and another

four born in Canada → they stated that this would cause a strain on social welfare systems for the rest of her life

- There are no H&C other than her four Canadian born children → they stated that they are not in the opinion that they cannot afford this type of generosity

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- She was deported by order of Roger Rowe, a lawyer of Caribbean heritage, intervened on her behalf to the Supreme
- Charged that the response of “the Supreme Court of Canada’s failure to address the racism permeating Baker is symptomatic of the larger problem of Canadian society’s ongoing failure to come to terms with the reality of systemic anti-black discrimination.”
- Emphasis on the number of children she had in bold letters point to her morality as a sexual being or rather sexualisation her presumably oversexed personal character
- Ms. Baker established herself as being self sufficient prior to becoming ill but the immigration office disregard this, arguing that on welfare she would be a drain to the social system
- Insulting notion of Canada’s generosity to accept broken bodies must be challenged
- Ms. Baker was a domestic worker - Caribbean domestic workers responded to the Canadian need for cheap labor to fill gaps left behind by white women during flourishing economic times
- Another way that black women’s bodies are punished has to do with how they are illuminated under the white gaze as hypersexual sex workers and drug mules transporting drugs in the private areas of their bodies
- Audrey Smieth was racially profiled as both a sex worker and a drug mule - sexually exploited/assaulted by police officers who took liberty of her body by publicly humiliating and violating her
- Indication of the “unfreeness” of a black woman's body in Canada and simultaneously reflects a lack of personal ownership of their own black bodies and the danger to the body itself
- Most troubling aspects of this ordeal was the decision to strip search her in public - disregarding her right to privacy and dignity in order to pursue a questionable claim - makes clear the way in which society makes permissible the public exploitation of, and entitlement to black women’s bodies
- The yearning to fondle, prod, poke, touch, destroy, coerce, arrest, cajole and detain black women’s bodies and the power to enact these primal wishes have historically been a right of passage for white men and women

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- Make sense that they would yield no negative consequences for them - because their bodies are the properties of white masters and mistresses (31-32)
- White media reported the story debased her and reduced her to a drug trafficker and sex worker
- Police officers tarnished and debased her character during the farce of the trial by accusing her of being a sex worker and a drug dealer, although there was no evidence to debase these claims - accusations continued unabated without regard for what is commonly perpetuated as the truth in issues of criminality

- Canadian state demonstrated the inherent over-sexualization of Audrey's body and their actions indicated that they believed that privacy was not a concern for black women
- In Canada, the police are mandated to publicly warn women when serial sexual predators are at large → police officers sexually violated Smith the impact of that traumatic incident is significant and yet these incident is significant and yet these officers were exonerated and sent back on the streets to sexually violate other black women
- Crenshaw argues that black women's encounter with the criminal justice system must account for the multiplicity of their social locations → Smith's case the committee who heard the case needed to consider and include her immigrant status, race, gender and class in the framing of the case and rendering of the verdict
- Woods stated that black women's bodies suffer various degree of unrecognizable injuries on their way to being consistently criminalized
- In these situations, the media shapes public opinion → public apathy is the dominant discourse rather than sympathy for the victim
- Similar attitude that is reflected when police injure or kill black men

Black Men - Gazed Upon and Killed

- Anti-black racism exists in Canada which manifests in disproportionate rates of under/employment, racial profiling, school expulsion, child welfare apprehension and over incarceration

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- Extreme poverty, carding and over imprisonment are suffocating African Canadians
- Fanon contends that attacks on the black male body is positioned in a way that reduce it to a caricature and "fasten him to the effigy of him, to snare him, to imprison him, the eternal victim of an essence, of an appearance for which he is not responsible"
- Here the effigy is that he is dangerous, hostile and uncivilized → must be captured/destroyed
- In response to this so called threat, police officers shot and killed at least 18 out of 51 or (35%) of black men since 1990
- The police do not keep statistics of shootings, therefore 17 (33%) of the 51 persons who were killed could not be racially identified
- Wade Lawson's death occurred more than 25 years ago - but he is not the last
- In response to Wade Lawson's killing police oversight body was formed, the Special Investigative Unit (SIU - review and investigate all situation in which officer's firearms were discharged
- Mike McCormack of the Toronto Police Association, indicated that he felt the SIU would be a positive implementation - enhancing police/community relations
- Black communities have and continue to express distrust and suspicion of the SIU → citing a conflict of interest for officers to investigate other officers
- Media accomplished 2 things simultaneously 1) shaped the majoritarian story to garnish sympathy for the state agent and status quo gatekeepers who shot and killed Wade Lawson at the back of the head with an illegal bullet and 2) encouraged apathy, mistrust and hostility Wade Lawson
- Most discourse focuses on him driving a stolen car rather than the police shooting and killing him while he was driving

- Fear of the black body motivated Wade Lawson's death → only a teenager, police officers interpreted him as being dangerous and driving a stolen car compounded their perception of this inherent danger and their need to contain, control, injure and ultimately kill Wade Lawson
- Police officers who shoot and/or kill black men are lauded and publicly/systematically supported

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- Wade Lawson - seemingly joyriding in a stolen car - public discourse questioned the victim rather than the police
- Questions as to why this young boy was shot in the back of the head and why an illegal bullet was used - originated from member of the Toronto's black communities
- Majority of black Canadian men who were shot and killed by police between 1979 and 1997 were not being aggressive towards officers and although Wade Lawson was seemingly driving away, many other victims were motionless and non-threatening
- The media helps to create the support for police aggression by presenting black men as "known to police" - media reports about violence, supreme prominence, especially in cases where police shoot and kill African Canadians
- This phrase is undefined/includes the broadest range of minor to serious interactions an individual can have with the police
- The criminal justice system, based on politically dominant norms and values so that "police officers are the first level of racial gazing and their role as gatekeepers is simply to preserve and enforce white social norms."
- When police shoot and kill African Canadians, many Canadians fully support their actions
- Ex. Police shot and killed 21 year Kwasi Skene-Peters who was labeled as "known to police", Maximilian Cheng said 'Officers did their job. End of Story'
- Glorifying Kwasi's killing shows how little regard Canadians have for black lives and indeed show that these bodies are disposable and indispensable
- 69.5 percent of articles lend prominence and credibility to accounts that provide legal justifications of lethal actions
- Media portrayed him as less than human and so it became easy for the Canadian public, politician, and policy makers to support the police and dismiss the black dead body as one less scourge on Canadian Soil
- Police scrutinize friends and families of deceased African Canadians described as "known to the police: and they are often treated poorly by the public"

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- Anti black racism and CRT "counterstorytelling" are used to show the danger of normative white Canadian and policing for African Canadians

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- More recently, Black Lives Matter have taken up the direct advocacy work to the extent that a nation wide demonstration occurred in Canada on July 27 2015 when the Toronto chapter successfully held a street demonstration that caused the closure of major arteries in Toronto following the shooting and killing of Andrew Loku, another black man

- Like its counterpart in the US, Black Lives Matter Canada argues that structural sanctioned and perpetuated police violence is unacceptable and demand immediate changes

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