

Dr. Crystal Marie Fleming

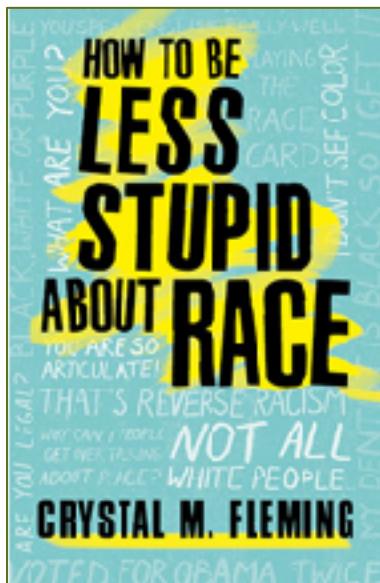
Press Kit



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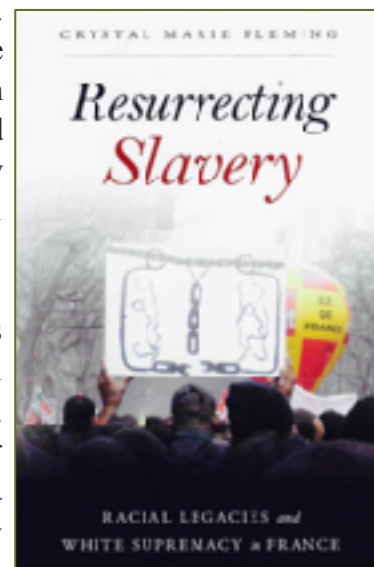
About Dr. Crystal Fleming

An author, cultural critic and social scientist, Crystal Marie Fleming, Ph.D. is committed to empowering people with the conceptual tools needed to understand, confront and challenge white supremacy. She is Associate Professor of Sociology and Africana Studies at [SUNY Stony Brook](#). Dr. Fleming's passion for speaking truth to power, addressing injustice and promoting equality infuses her scholarship, writing and teaching. She has conducted research on racism and anti-racism in the United States and France, and collaborated on projects examining the experiences of ethnic and racial minorities in Brazil and Israel. She earned a Ph.D. and a master's degree in Sociology from Harvard University and graduated with honors in Sociology and French from Wellesley College. Her research appears in journals such as *The Sociology of Race and Ethnicity*, *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, *Poetics*, *Du Bois Review: Social Science Research on Race* and *Mindfulness*.



Her new book, *How to Be Less Stupid About Race: On Racism, White Supremacy and the Racial Divide*, combines memoir, critical race theory, social commentary and satire to debunk common misconceptions about racism. The book will be published by Beacon Press in September 2018 and earned a starred Kirkus review. Her first book *Resurrecting Slavery: Racial Legacies and White Supremacy in France* (Temple University Press, 2017) uses critical race theory to significantly advance scholarship on [racism in France](#) and Europe. Building on her award-winning dissertation, the book marshals ethnographic data, archival research and in-depth interviews with French activists and descendants of slaves to examine how commemorations of enslavement and abolition both challenge and reproduce the racial order.

A public intellectual known for her frank talk and insouciant humor, Crystal's provocative writing and speaking engage a broad range of scholarly and personal topics, from racism and white supremacy to politics, spirituality, feminism, (bi)sexuality and philosophy. Her essays and op-eds can be found in popular venues like [Newsweek](#), [Vox](#), [The Root](#), [Everyday Feminism](#), [Black Agenda Report](#), [Black Perspectives](#) and [Huffington Post](#). She is represented by literary agent [Michael Bourret](#).



She is also a bold, dynamic and influential voice on [Twitter](#) with over 40,000 followers and millions of readers. Her tweets on racism and politics are frequently cited in pop culture and media outlets such as [The Nation](#), [Hip Hop Wired](#), [The New Republic](#), [Washington Post](#), [Al Jazeera](#), [Blavity](#), [USA Today](#), [BET](#) and [Buzzfeed](#).



Photo: Nicole Mondestin

For Event Organizers

Are you ready for a **frank and courageous conversation** about white supremacy?

Do you need a **knowledgeable, bold and passionate speaker** to help your community confront racism?

Would you like to move beyond the catchphrase of 'diversity and inclusion' and take **concrete steps for anti-racist change**?

A unique and provocative voice, **Dr. Fleming provides audiences with a crystal clear understanding of systemic racism** by distilling complex historical, political and social dynamics into accessible, everyday language. Accordingly, **she helps individuals, organizations and corporations learn about anti-racism and push through discomfort** as they confront the historical roots and ongoing practice of white supremacist racism in the United States and abroad. Dr. Fleming moves beyond the data and wears her heart on her sleeve as she courageously tells the hard truths about systemic racism. Her signature blend of controversial straight talk and deep compassion make her a lively, humorous and inspiring speaker. Through years of building a public platform through blogging, tweeting and writing op-eds for venues like *Vox*, *Huffington Post* and *The Root*, **Dr. Fleming has honed the art of simplifying and amplifying the insights of critical race theory to educate and empower those who want to join the fight against racism**. She also provides **workshops and training on professional development** on issues related to diversity, writing and building supportive relationships.

Dr. Fleming's approach explains how people of all backgrounds have been shaped by the racist society in which we live and inspires anti-racists to build solidarity across our differences.

A sought after speaker, she's delivered inspiring keynotes, talks and workshops for campuses, communities of faith and organizations across the world, in both English and French. In addition to her frank talk and no-b.s. approach to anti-racism, what sets her apart from many partisan pundits and social critics is the fact that **she calls out folks on the left and the right for reproducing racism—and calls on all of us, across the political spectrum, to take an active role in dismantling injustice and building inter-group solidarity.**

Full bio available at www.crystalflaming.com/bio

Keynote and Workshop Topics

- *“How to Be Less Stupid About Race”*
- *“Racism and Anti-racism in our Classrooms and Communities”*
- *“Killing Them Softly: Anti-blackness and the Legacies of Slavery in France”*
- *“No F*cks to Give: Dismantling the Respectability Politics of White Supremacist Sociology”*
- *“Get Connected! Building a Supportive Network in Academia”*
- *“The Academic's Guide to Working with a Literary Agent”*

Past Event Highlights

- Aarhus Institute of Advanced Studies, Aarhus, Denmark
- American University
- American Sociological Association
- Bucknell University
- Columbia University
- Council on European Studies
- CUNY Grad Center
- Duke University
- École des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales, Paris, France
- Eastern Sociological Society
- Ford Foundation
- French American Foundation
- Harvard University
- Howard University
- Indiana University—Bloomington
- Le Musée Aquitaine, Bordeaux, France
- Long Island Community College
- National Center for Faculty Development and Diversity
- New York University
- Northwestern University
- Norwalk Community College
- Notre Dame University
- Oregon Health and Sciences University
- Paris 8, Paris, France
- PreSERVE Coalition
- Trinity College
- University of Illinois at Chicago
- Université Lille-3
- Virginia Wesleyan University, Center for the Study of Religious Freedom
- Wellesley College
- William Paterson University
- Woodrow Wilson Foundation
- Zen Buddhist Temple (Chicago)

Testimonials

Speaking, Workshops & Teaching

“Over the past five years we’ve hosted 75 guest experts and Professor Fleming is one of our member’s favorite. She has the perfect combination of high quality content, approachable demeanor, and consistent engagement that left our members asking: when can she come back? There are many brilliant scholars in academia, but precious few who can connect deeply with a broad audience to both teach and transform. Dr. Fleming is that rare transformational speaker whose impact lasts long after her workshop has ended.”

— Kerry Ann Rockquemore, Ph.D.
Founder, National Center for Faculty Development & Diversity

"It was a pleasure to have Dr. Fleming give a talk at William Paterson University . . . Her rapport with students was fantastic and when her talk was over she had students around her wanting more time for questions and discussions. She helped our students see issues of criminology and race in a different context (France) and deepened their understanding of how structure and context shape racism broadly. Feedback after the event was extremely positive, with faculty and students alike commenting on how much they learned."

— Wendy M. Christensen, Ph.D.,
Associate Professor and Assistant Chair, Department of Sociology
William Paterson University

"Crystal is a wonderful and wise teacher. Her insights about both supportive relationships were valuable. I liked what she said about elevating your values. I'm grateful that I had this opportunity. I could have used this training twenty years ago."

— Workshop Participant
Get Connected! Building Supportive Relationships in Academia

"THANK YOU for always being oriented towards being an academic that is authentic and generous towards your community in these important ways that we all should be."

— Workshop Participant
Get Connected! Building Supportive Relationships in Academia

“I can easily say, without hesitation or exaggeration, that Professor Fleming. . . is the best professor I have ever had at Stony Brook University, and I recommend that any student, regardless to their major, take at least one of her classes. From an academic standpoint, it is abundantly clear that Dr. Fleming has an extensive knowledge base on all of the subject matter she teaches. She is highly proficient in explaining even the most complex theories in a way that guarantees a class-wide understanding of the material. Her teaching style has a very calming feel to it, almost conversational, that makes learning from her such an enjoyable experience . . . I’ve taken both Historical Development of Social Theory (SOC 361) and Ethnic and Race Relations (SOC 310) with Dr. Fleming and in both courses I have taken away much more than just the material alone. From both of these classes, I was able to take away the greatest message of all: Don’t take knowledge for granted. Question everything. Take control of your education . . . Sociological canons of past generations must be questioned in regards to their claims, taking into account the social context in which they were conceived; the education system and previous information given to us about race and race relations must be heavily critiqued . . . We are in charge of our own education, and to be completely honest, being in her classes made me realize that I don’t know half as much as I thought I did. By that I mean, I passively accepted knowledge; I didn’t question those who supplied me with it. But after taking Dr. Fleming’s class, I question everything, I do my own research from credible sources and take a step further to learn about those actual sources and their writers’ social locations. The things I’ve learned from Dr. Fleming that I find most important aren’t necessarily the things that I can be tested and graded on, it’s much more than that. They are the things I am able to take and apply to every aspect of my life, and for that I am forever grateful.”

—Kelsea Johnson

Stony Brook graduate and recent contestant on NBC’s “The Voice”

Scholarship & Writing

“Fleming has written a timely analysis of systemic racism and white supremacy that is both deadly serious and seriously funny. With its deft mix of satire, memoir, and empirical evidence, her book is a groundbreaking model of public scholarship and sure to be an instant classic.”

—Eduardo Bonilla-Silva, Ph.D.

President of the American Sociological Association and author of Racism without Racists: Colorblind Racism and the Persistence of Racial Inequality in America

“How to Be Less Stupid About Race is the perfect combination of Racism 101, critical race theory, and powerful analysis . . . This bold and brave book is a must-read for anyone who wants to understand white supremacy in the United States.”

—**Tanya Golash-Boza, Ph.D.**

Author of Race and Racisms: A Critical Approach

"Dr. Fleming offers a straight-no-chaser critique of our collective complicit ignorance regarding the state of race in the United States. In particular, she calls out the lack of resolve, especially among the political class, to admit and address the generational damage caused by institutional racism. This book will leave you thinking, offended, and transformed."

—**Nina Turner**

Former Ohio state senator

Selected Media

- “Martin Luther King Jr.'s Legacy”, France24, April 4th 2018. Available [online](#).
- “Quel héritage pour la lutte pour les droits civiques de Martin Luther King Jr. ?”, April 4th 2018, France24. Available [online](#).
- “Special Edition: Race in America”, Metrofocus PBS (NYC), January 16th 2018. Available [online](#).
- “Crossing a Red Line: French mayor slammed for profiling Muslim students”, May 7th 2015, France24. Available [online](#).

More video and audio clips available at www.crystalflaming.com/speaking

Curriculum Vitae

CRYSTAL MARIE FLEMING

Associate Professor
Sociology and Africana Studies
State University of New York at Stony Brook

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Critical Race Theory, White Supremacy, Racism, Anti-racism, Sociology of Knowledge, Cultural Sociology, Temporality, Collective Memory, Stigma, Intersectionality, Mindfulness, Contemplative Practice and Spirituality

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY, Stony Brook, NY

2017—Present: *Associate Professor of Sociology with tenure*, courtesy appointment in Africana Studies

STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY, Stony Brook, NY

2011—2017: *Assistant Professor of Sociology*, with courtesy appointment in Africana Studies

UNIVERSITÉ LILLE-3, France

Spring 2015: *Visiting Professor*

EDUCATION

HARVARD UNIVERSITY, Cambridge, MA

Ph.D. in Sociology, May 2011

Dissertation Title: “Imagining French Atlantic Slavery: A Comparison of Mnemonic Entrepreneurs and Everyday Antilleans in Metropolitan France”*

**Winner, Georges-Lavau Award for Best Dissertation on French Politics,
American Political Science Association*

Committee: Michèle Lamont (chair), Mary Lewis, Orlando Patterson, Christopher Winship

M.A. in Sociology, May 2007

Qualifying Paper Title: “Poetry, Politics and the Public Sphere: How Race Structures Discourse in Spoken Word Poetry Venues”

General Examinations: Race and Ethnicity, Cultural Sociology, Stratification and Organizations

WELLESLEY COLLEGE, Wellesley, MA

B.A. magna cum laude, May 2004

Majors: Sociology (honors) and French

Senior Thesis (Sociology): “Performing Blackness: Symbolic Boundaries and Aesthetic Distinctions among Spoken Word Poets in Boston”

INSTITUT D’ETUDES POLITIQUES, Paris, France

Visiting Student, November 2007 – August 2009

UNIVERSITÉ DE PROVENCE, AIX-MARSEILLE, Aix-en-Provence, France

Visiting Student, January 2003 – June 2003

OTHER PROFESSIONAL & LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

Instructor

Harvard University

2010 – 2011

Institute for Quantitative Social Science

Cambridge, MA

President

2006 – 2007

Graduate Student Council

Graduate School of Arts and Sciences

Harvard University

Research Intern

2008

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

The Slave Route Project

Division of Intercultural Dialogue

Paris, France

AWARDS AND HONORS

2012 Georges-Lavau Dissertation Prize for Best Dissertation on French Politics
American Political Science Association, French Politics Group

2011 Princeton Society of Fellows (*Finalist*)

2007 Certificate of Excellence in Teaching, Derek Bok Center for Teaching and Learning
Harvard University

2004 Honors awarded for senior thesis
Department of Sociology
Wellesley College
Alpha Kappa Delta Award for Excellence in Sociology
(Most distinguished senior majoring in Sociology at Wellesley College)

Mellon Mays Award for Outstanding Academic Performance
Social Service and Personal Character
Wellesley College

Junior Fellow to the American Association of Political and Social Science

2002 Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellow

BOOK MANUSCRIPTS

Fleming, Crystal M. 2018. *How to Be Less Stupid About Race: On Racism, White Supremacy and the Racial Divide*. Boston: Beacon Press.

Fleming, Crystal M. 2017. *Resurrecting Slavery: Racial Legacies and White Supremacy in France*. Philadelphia: Temple University Press.

REFEREED ARTICLES IN PEER-REVIEWED JOURNALS

2017. Proulx, J., Croff, R., Oken, B., Aldwin, **Fleming, C.** Bergen-Cico D., and Thao LeMisbah Noorani "Considerations for Research and Development of Culturally Relevant Mindfulness Interventions in American Minority Communities." *Mindfulness*: (1-10).

2016. Gonzalez, Adam, Locicero, B., Mahaffey, B., **Fleming, C.**, Harris, J. and Vujanovic, A. "Internalized HIV-Stigma and Mindfulness: Associations with PTSD Symptom Severity in Trauma-Exposed Adults with HIV/AIDS. Behavior Modification." *Behavior Modification*. 40(1-2): 144-163.

2015. **Fleming, Crystal M.** and Morris, A. "Theorizing Ethnic and Racial Movements in the Global Age: Lessons from the Civil Rights Movement." *Sociology of Race and Ethnicity*. 1(1): 105-126.

2012. **Fleming, Crystal M.** "White Cruelty or Republican Sins? Competing Frames of Stigma Reversal in French Commemorations of Slavery", *Ethnic and Racial Studies* 35(3), pp. 448-505.

2012. **Fleming, Crystal M.**, Lamont, M. and Welburn, J. "African Americans Respond to Stigmatization: The Meanings and Salience of Confronting, Deflecting Conflict, Educating the Ignorant and Managing The Self." *Ethnic and Racial Studies* 35(3): 400-417.2011.

2007. **Fleming, Crystal M.** and Roses, L. "Black Cultural Capitalists: African American Elites and the Organization of the Arts in Early Twentieth-Century Boston." *Poetics* (356): 368-387.

2005. Lamont, Michèle, **Fleming, C.** "Everyday Anti-Racism: Competence and Religion in the Cultural Repertoire of the African-American Elite and Working Class." *The Du Bois Review: Social Science Research on Race* (2:1), pp. 29-43.

BOOK CHAPTERS

2018. **Fleming, Crystal M.** "No Fucks to Give: Dismantling the Respectability Politics of White Supremacist Sociology." In *The New Black Sociologists: Historical and Contemporary Perspectives*, edited by Marcus A. Hunter. Routledge. New York, NY.

2016. **Fleming, Crystal M.** "Spirituality and Mindfulness." In *Gender: Love*, edited by Jennifer C. Nash. Macmillan Interdisciplinary Handbooks series. Farmington Hills, MI: Macmillan Reference USA

2013. Lamont, M., **Fleming, C.** and Welburn, J. "Responses to Discrimination and Social Resilience Under Neoliberalism: The United States Compared." (with Michèle Lamont and Jessica S. Welburn) in *Social Resilience in the Neo-Liberal Age*, Edited by Peter A. Hall and Michèle Lamont. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

**French translation: "Les africains-américains face aux discriminations à l'époque néo-libérale", Informations Sociales, n°177, mai-juin 2013, n° spécial, "Le volontarisme aux États-Unis : un lien social à l'épreuve."*

2011. Gross, Neil and **Fleming, C.** "Academic Conferences and the Making of Philosophical Knowledge" in Camic, Charles, Neil Gross and Michèle Lamont (Eds.) *Social Knowledge in the Making*, Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

2011 **Fleming, Crystal M.** "The Educational Experiences of Caribbeans in France", pp. 79-98 in Kassie Freeman, Ethan Johnson and Kelvin Shawn Sealey (Eds.), *Education in the Black Diaspora*. London and New York: Routledge.

REVIEWS, ESSAYS AND ENCYCLOPEDIA ENTRIES

2017. **Fleming, Crystal M.** "Theorizing at the Margins: Du Bois, The Scholar Denied, and the Matter of Black Lives". *Sociology of Race and Ethnicity*. 4 (1): 155-158.

2017. **Fleming, Crystal M.** *Contemporary Sociology*, Conceptualizing Racism: Breaking the Chains of Racially Accommodative Language, 46 issue: 4: 414-416

2016. **Fleming, Crystal M.** "Kindler, Gentler Pathologizing: Racial Asymmetries in *The Cultural Matrix*." *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, 39:8, 1436-1444

2014. **Fleming, Crystal M.** "Tiny Publics: A Theory of Group Action and Culture." *Contemporary Sociology: A Journal of Reviews* 43: 206-208.

2012. Lamont, M, Welburn, J. and **Fleming, C.** "Varieties of Responses to Stigmatization: Macro, Meso, and Micro Dimensions." (with Michèle Lamont and Jessica Welburn). *Du Bois Review: Social Science Research on Race*. 9(1): 43-49.

2008. **Fleming, Crystal M.** "Joyce Ladner" in Gates, Henry L, and Evelyn B. Higginbotham (Eds.) *The African American National Biography (Volume 5)*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Photos of Dr. Fleming

High resolution photos available upon request. Contact: bookings@crystalflaming.com.



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