# INTERSECTIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR UNDERSTANDING RACIAL INEQUALITIES IN U.S. CRIMINAL LEGAL & CARCERAL SYSTEMS

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# **INTERSECTIONALITY**

# THE MATERIALIZATION OF INTERSECTIONALITY

The term "intersectionality" coined by Kimberlé Crenshaw in 1980s, but . . .

... the **conceptual foundation** was developed prior to this **naming** of the concept

Based in U.S. Black feminist theory and activism

### **DEFINING INTERSECTIONALITY**



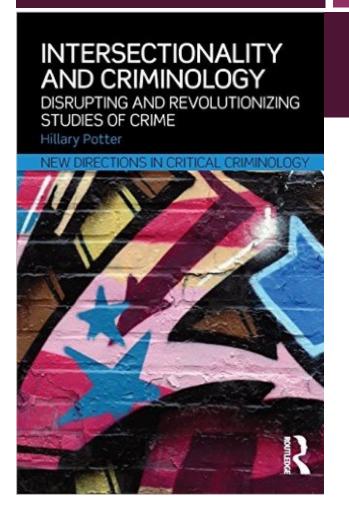
The concept or conceptualization that each person has an assortment of coalesced socially constructed identities that are ordered into an inequitable social stratum



It is a social ordering of social attributes that are multiple, multiplicative, and inseparable for each individual

### **DEFINING INTERSECTIONALITY**

- Cho, Crenshaw, and McCall (2013) argue ...
  - "what makes an analysis intersectional...is its adoption of an intersectional way of thinking about the problem of sameness and difference and its relation to power" (p. 795)
  - Thus underscoring what an intersectionality analysis <u>does</u> rather than what it <u>is</u>



Intersectional criminology is a perspective that incorporates the intersectional or intersectionality concept into criminological research and theory and into the evaluation of crime or crimerelated policies and laws and the governmental administration of "justice."

Ms. Stella (co-moderator): We allowed them to form a Ferguson commission, but yet we've never formed a Ferguson commission. What would happen if we formed a Ferguson commission and begin to release findings and release concerns like this. In other words, did we concede the process to them?

Several: Yes!

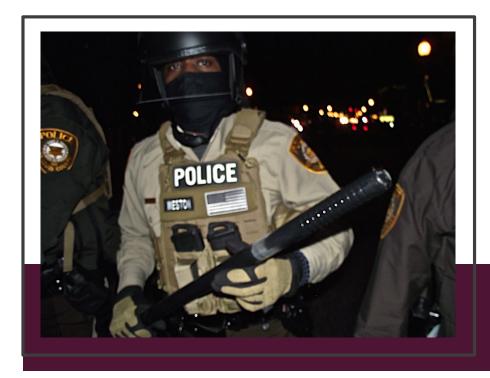
Ms. Stella: Someone said [in the focus group] yesterday that she felt that the goal was to manage the message and the perception to the world that things had occurred that had not [really occurred].



Ms. Celia: But I've always said that since the beginning. We have all these people who do livestreams, television shows, internet radio shows - why are we not the ones that are on there [the Ferguson Commission]. Because this is our message. Why is somebody else trying to tell my story? You don't know it! You don't know my story!... I think that that White man whoever he is, I don't know his name - you might be a decent guy, [but] you don't know nothing about being Black in America, so why are you even on the Ferguson Commission?!



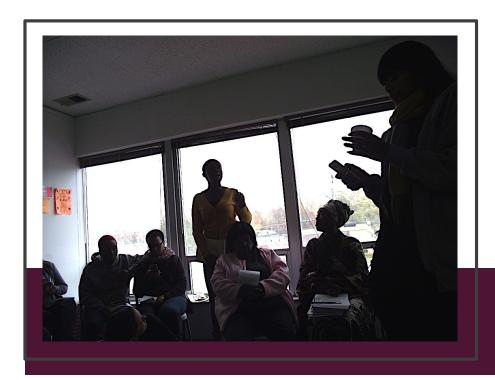
## **GETTING CLOSE**



"You can't understand most of the important things from a distance....You have to get close."

> Bryan Stevenson, Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption (2014)

# VOICE



- The people and communities we consider in our research have voice, and do not need to be given voice.
- They are the <u>experts</u> of their lived experiences.