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# 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 does rather than what it is



*Intersectional criminology* is a perspective that incorporates the intersectional or intersectionality concept into criminological research and theory and into the evaluation of crime or crime-related 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 experts of their lived experiences.