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Michael P. Jeffries is Associate Professor of American Studies at Wellesley College. He is the author of *Paint the White House Black: Barack Obama and the Meaning of Race in America* (Stanford University Press, 2013), and *Thug Life: Race, Gender, and the Meaning of Hip-Hop* (University of Chicago Press, 2011). He holds a PhD from Harvard University, and is a contributor at *The Boston Globe*, *The Atlantic*, and *The Guardian*.

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Kim M. Williams is Associate Professor of Political Science at the Hatfield School of Government at Portland State University. She received her PhD from Cornell University and taught from 2000-2010 at the Harvard Kennedy School. Her first book, *Mark One or More: Civil Rights in Multiracial America* (2006), explains how a small group of "multiracial" activists spurred a big change in how the Census counts by race. She has received major fellowships/awards from the U.S. Department of State, the Ford Foundation, and the Radcliffe Institute. She served on the U.S. Census Advisory Committee for the African-American Population from 2007-2011. Her current research focuses on black-immigrant relations and political coalition building.

Alford A. Young, Jr. is Arthur F. Thurnau Professor and Chair of the Department of Sociology at the University of Michigan. He also holds an appointment in the Department of Afroamerican and African Studies. His primary research has been on low-income African American men. Young has published *The Minds of Marginalized Black Men: Making Sense of Mobility, Opportunity, and Future Life Chances* (Princeton University Press 2004) and various articles on the worldviews and ideologies of these men. He is completing two manuscripts; one entitled, "From the Edge of the Ghetto: African Americans and the World of Work," and another that examines how African American men who were reared in poverty but who engaged extreme upward mobility as young adults learned to navigate race and class-based constraints.

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