MAP Reads Book Group

Wednesday, March 17, 2021
From 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm
VIA ZOOM

MAP’s pick for March is White Fragility: Why It’s So Hard to Talk with White People About Racism by Robin DiAngelo. The New York Times best-selling book explores the counterproductive reactions white people have when their assumptions about race are challenged, and how these reactions maintain racial inequality.

Wednesday, January 27, 2021
From 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm
VIA ZOOM

January’s book title is James Baldwin’s The Fire Next Time, a plaintive description of the consequences of racial injustice. “A national bestseller when it first appeared in 1963, The Fire Next Time galvanized the nation and gave passionate voice to the emerging civil rights movement. At once a powerful evocation of James Baldwin’s early life in Harlem and a disturbing examination of the consequences of racial injustice, the book is an intensely personal and provocative document. It consists of two “letters,” written on the occasion of the centennial of the Emancipation Proclamation, that exhort Americans, both black and white, to attack the terrible legacy of racism. Described by The New York Times Book Review as “sermon, ultimatum, confession, deposition, testament, and chronicle…all presented in searing, brilliant prose,” The Fire Next Time”

Wednesday, December 2, 2020
From 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm
VIA ZOOM

Our December title is The Turner House by Angela Flournoy. The Turner House is the debut novel of African-American author Angela Flournoy, first published in 2015. Focusing on a Detroit family with thirteen children as it struggles to cope with the economic troubles, the narrative spans from the 1920s to the 1980s. The house they live in becomes a character in the story and serves as an anchor for this large African-American family. Although Flournoy has family from Detroit, she did not live in the city personally and so conducted extensive research. Both critics and Flournoy herself have compared this book the work of Zora Neale Hurston, as it explores themes of family ties, race, poverty, addiction, and hauntings both real and imagined. It was highly acclaimed financial success and was a finalist for the 2015 National Book Award for Fiction. Flournoy also won the 2016 VCU Cabell First Novelist Award.
Wednesday, October 28, 2020
From 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm
VIA ZOOM

MAP’s October selection consists of two articles:

"It is Time for Reparations" by Nikole Hannah-Jones published in the New York Times June 26, 2020

Wednesday, August 26 and September 23, 2020
From 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm
VIA ZOOM

MAP’s pick for both August and September is The Color of Law: A Forgotten History of How Our Government Segregated America by Richard Rothstein. In The Color of Law (published by Liveright in May 2017), Richard Rothstein argues with exacting precision and fascinating insight how segregation in America—the incessant kind that continues to dog our major cities and has contributed to so much recent social strife—is the byproduct of explicit government policies at the local, state, and federal levels. The Color of Law was designated one of ten finalists on the National Book Awards' long list for the best nonfiction book of 2017.

Wednesday, July 29, 2020
From 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm
VIA ZOOM

Our July title is How to Be An Anti-Racist by Ibram X Kendi. Ibram X. Kendi’s concept of antiracism reenergizes and reshapes the conversation about racial justice in America—but even more fundamentally, points us toward liberating new ways of thinking about ourselves and each other. Instead of working with the policies and system we have in place, Kendi asks us to think about what an antiracist society might look like, and how we can play an active role in building it. You can order a copy here.

Wednesday, April 22, 2020
From 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm
VIA ZOOM

This month’s pick is The Ghost Map by Steven Johnson. A national bestseller, a New York Times Notable Book, and an Entertainment Weekly Best Book of the Year.

It’s the summer of 1854, and London is just emerging as one of the first modern cities in the world. But lacking the infrastructure—garbage removal, clean water, sewers—necessary to support its rapidly expanding population, the city has become the perfect breeding ground for a terrifying disease no one knows the cause of or how to cure. As the cholera outbreak takes hold, a physician and a local curate are spurred to action—and ultimately solve the most pressing medical riddle of their time.
Wednesday, March 25, 2020
From 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm
VIA ZOOM

Our March title is *Broke* by Jodie Adams Kirshner. Bankruptcy and the austerity it represents have become a common "solution" for struggling American cities. What do the spending cuts and limited resources do to the lives of city residents? *Broke* follows seven Detroiters as they navigate life during and after their city's bankruptcy. Reggie loses his savings trying to make a habitable home for his family. Cindy fights drug use, prostitution, and dumping on her block. Lola commutes two hours a day to her suburban job. For them, financial issues are mired within the larger ramifications of poor urban policies, restorative negligence on the state and federal level and—even before the decision to declare Detroit bankrupt in 2013—the root causes of a city’s fiscal demise.

Wednesday, January 22, 2020
From 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm
Location: TBD

This month’s title, *Urban Forests* by Jill Jonnes’s tells “the captivating stories of the founding mothers and fathers of urban forestry, in addition to those arboreal advocates presently using the latest technologies to illuminate the value of trees to public health and to our urban infrastructure. The book examines such questions as the character of American urban forests and the effect that tree-rich landscaping might have on commerce, crime, and human well-being. For amateur botanists, urbanists, environmentalists, and policymakers, Urban Forests will be a revelation of one of the greatest, most productive, and most beautiful of our natural resources.”

You can read more about it and order it [here](#).

Wednesday, November 20, 2019
From 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm
Location: Detroit Future City, 2990 West Grand Boulevard, Suite 2, Detroit

November’s title, *The Color of Money*, pursues the persistence of this racial wealth gap by focusing on the generators of wealth in the black community: black banks. Studying these institutions over time, Mehrsa Baradaran challenges the myth that black communities could ever accumulate wealth in a segregated economy. Instead, housing segregation, racism, and Jim Crow credit policies created an inescapable, but hard to detect, economic trap for black communities and their banks.

[Source Booksellers](#) has discounted books on hold for the MAP Reads Book Group.

Tuesday, September 10, 2019
From 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm
Location: Detroit Public Library, 5201 Woodward Avenue, Detroit
Our September title is *What the Eyes Don’t See: A Story of Crisis, Resistance, and Hope in an American City* by Dr. Mona Hanna-Attisha. This month the MAP Reads Book Group will participate in the WDET Book Club at the Detroit Public Library. The WDET Book Club travels to libraries around the region and brings in guests who played a role in the book. Join us for a different take on our standard book group format for a conversation at the Detroit Public Library, featuring Dr. Mona Hanna-Attisha.

**Wednesday, July 24, 2019**  
**From 5:30 pm to 8:00 pm**  
**Location:** Source Booksellers, 4240 Cass Avenue #105, Detroit

The MAP Reads July selection is *Locking Up Our Own*, by James Forman. Locking Up Our Own won the 2018 Pulitzer Prize for Nonfiction. Jennifer Senior of the *New York Times* writes, “The stories he shares are not just carefully curated to make us think differently about criminal justice (though they will, particularly about that hallowed distinction between nonviolent drug offenders and everyone else); they are stories that made Forman himself think differently, and it’s in telling them that he sheds his cautious, measured self and becomes a brokenhearted, frustrated civil servant.”

Here is a link with information about the book [https://www.jamesformanjr.com/](https://www.jamesformanjr.com/)

**Wednesday, May 22, 2019**  
**Refreshments 5:30 pm to 6:00 pm**  
**From 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm**  
**Location:** OHM Advisors, 1145 Griswold, Suite 200, Detroit

May’s MAP Reads selection is Iain Sinclair’s *Living with Buildings: And Walking with Ghosts – On Health and Architecture*. In ‘Living with Buildings’, Iain Sinclair embarks on a series of expeditions through London, Marseille, Mexico and the Outer Hebrides. He explores the relationships between sickness and structure, between art, architecture, social planning and health.

**Wednesday, March 27, 2019**  
**Refreshments 5:30 pm to 6:00 pm**  
**From 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm**  
**Location:** McKenna offices, 28 West Adams Street, Suite 1000, Detroit

Our March title is *Reclaiming Gotham: Bill de Blasio and the Movement to End America’s Tale of Two Cities* by Juan Gonzalez. John Nichols of *The Nation* writes: “The future is never charted in Washington. The future always begins at the grassroots, in our great cities. Our ablest chronicler of urban affairs, Juan González, has with *Reclaiming Gotham* produced the essential book on today’s American politics—and, more importantly, on the next American politics…”
Wednesday, January 23, 2019
Refreshments 5:30 pm to 6:00 pm
From 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm
Location: Wade Trim Offices, 500 Griswold, Suite 2500, Detroit

The MAP Reads January selection is The Divided City: Poverty and Prosperity in America’s Older Cities by Alan Mallach. Jason Segedy in Notes from the Underground said, "it is the best and most relevant book written on urban planning and policy in post-industrial cities in the 21st century. This book is not only packed with information and ideas, but is well-written, enjoyable, and engaging."

Wednesday, November 28, 2018
Refreshments 5:30 pm to 6:00 pm
From 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm
Location: Detroit Future City, 2990 West Grand Boulevard, Suite 2, Detroit

Our November title is Devil in the White City: Murder, Magic Madness at the Fair that Changed America by Erik Larson. This New York Times bestseller intertwines the true tale of the 1893 World's Fair and the cunning serial killer who used the fair to lure his victims to their death. Combining meticulous research with nail-biting storytelling, Erik Larson has crafted a narrative with all the wonder of newly discovered history and the thrills of the best fiction.

The Kerner Report: 50 Years Later and What has Changed? Part 1 of a three-part series

Thursday, May 17, 2018
from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm
Location: Eastside Community Network, 4401 Connor, Detroit

8:00 to 9:30 pm - Refreshments and Beverages (we’ll head out after)

Panelists | Discussion Leaders
Peter Hammer, Professor of Law & Director Damon J. Keith Center for Civil Rights at Wayne State University Law School
Joel Batterman, Candidate for the Wayne County Commission and racial justice advocate
Orlando Bailey, Eastside Community Network (ECN) Director of Community Partnerships

In the wake of the 50-year anniversary of the release of the 1968 Kerner Report, MAP Reads participants and guest panelists will discuss the state of racial equity in the decades following the 1967 Detroit Rebellion.

The report, officially titled Report of the National Advisory Commission on Civil Disorders, but commonly known as the Kerner Report after the chair of the committee Otto Kerner, details the findings of a President Lyndon B Johnson appointed committee appointed to study the 1967 unrest and rebellion. Detroit, along with cities like Cleveland, Nashville, Boston, and Newark, still experience impacts and consequences from those dark days. And what cures were advanced after scathing
indictments on urban education systems, inadequate housing, police brutality? The report laid out policy solutions for jobs and housing, eliminating segregation and police training, recommendations that were never heeded.

Read the full report, or find a summary HERE.

Suggested Supplemental Readings:

The Kerner Report
NPR Report from February 27, 2018
CityLab: Lessons from the Kerner Report

Thursday, April 5, 2018
From 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm
Detroit, Location To Be Determined

Our April title is Fordlandia: The Rise and Fall of Henry Ford’s Forgotten Jungle City by Greg Grandin. In 1927, Henry Ford, the richest man in the world, bought a tract of land twice the size of Delaware in the Brazilian Amazon. His intention was to grow rubber, but the project rapidly evolved into a more ambitious bid to export America itself, along with its golf courses, ice-cream shops, bandstands, indoor plumbing, and Model T’s rolling down broad streets. This book details the saga.

https://us.macmillan.com/fordlandia/greggrandin/9780312429621/

Wednesday February 28, 2018
From 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm
Traffic Jam
Our February title is Dawn of Detroit by Tiya Miles. Most Americans believe that slavery was a creature of the South, and that Northern states and territories provided stops on the Underground Railroad for fugitive slaves on their way to Canada. In this paradigm-shifting book, celebrated historian Tiya Miles reveals that slavery was at the heart of the Midwest’s iconic city: Detroit.


Wednesday January 24, 2018
from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm
Giffels Webster at 28 W Adams Avenue, Suite 1200, Detroit

Our January title is The Death and Life of the Great Lakes by Dan Egan. “The Great Lakes hold 20 percent of the world’s freshwater, and they provide food, work, and weekend fun for tens of
millions of Americans. Yet they are under threat as never before. In a work of narrative reporting in the vein of Rachel Carson and Elizabeth Kolbert, prize-winning reporter Dan Egan delivers an eye-opening portrait of our nation’s greatest natural resource as it faces ecological calamity."


Wednesday October 25, 2017
from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm
Mercury Bar, Lower level at 2163 Michigan Avenue, Detroit

Our October title is *The New Minority* by Justin Gest, Assistant Professor of Public Policy at George Mason University's Schar School of Policy and Government. "*The New Minority* speaks to people living in once thriving working class cities--Youngstown, Ohio and Dagenham, England--to arrive at a nuanced understanding of their political attitudes and behaviors. In this daring and compelling book, he makes the case that tension between the vestiges of white working class power and its perceived loss have produced the unique phenomenon of white working class radicalization."

https://www.amazon.com/New-Minority-Politics-Immigration-Inequality/dp/0190632550

Thursday August 24, 2017
from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm
Eastside Community Network at 4401 Conner Street, Detroit

Our August title is *Evicted* by Matthew Desmond. This Pulitzer Prize winning book is a deeply humanizing and empathetic book about poverty which has had an enormous impact on housing experts and planners. Detroit based housing leaders will join us for a robust conversation.


Wednesday June 28, 2017
from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm
Tech Town, Wayne State University Integrative Biosciences Center at 6135 Woodward Avenue.

Adjacent to the Amsterdam QLine stop.
(The façade facing Woodward is mostly glass painted with birch trees, you can’t miss it.)

Parking: The on-site lot will be closed, but all of the street parking around the building, including Cass, is not metered.

Our June title is *Arc of Justice: A Saga of Race, Civil Rights, and Murder in the Jazz Age*, a 2004 book by historian Kevin Boyle. The book chronicles racism in Detroit during the 1920s Jazz Age
through the lens of Ossian Sweet, a grandson of a slave who becomes a doctor and eventually moves from the ghetto to an all-white middle-class neighborhood. When racist whites attack and invade Sweet's home, a white man is killed. Sweet and his family are persecuted by the legal system, leading to the deaths of members of Sweet's family and the destruction of Sweet's career as a physician.

The book won the 2004 National Book Award for Nonfiction.