



# On **P**oint Bulletin: **HURRICANE KATRINA** and its **AFTERMATH**

## A Curriculum Resource Guide

*prepared by*

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CENTER FOR  
THE STUDY OF RACE  
AND RACE RELATIONS

**UF** UNIVERSITY of  
FLORIDA

## From the Director

The University of Florida's Center for the Study of Race and Race Relations (CSRRR) is pleased to present, *On Point: A Curriculum Guide*. We have designed this as a resource tool to support race-based curriculum development. For this, our first On Point, we focus on Hurricane Katrina. The Hurricane and its aftermath raise a broad range of issues—legal, social, economic, health, political, racial, and regional. Much has been written about Katrina and this guide is intended to be representative rather than comprehensive. With the able guidance of Professor Wendy Brown Scott, we have included approximately 150 references, including books, law reviews, social science, health and public policy articles, websites, and documentary films.

We hope you find this publication to be a useful resource. Please join us in our work.

Katheryn Russell-Brown

Professor of Law and Director,

Center for the Study of Race and Race Relations

## Wendy Brown Scott, Professor of Law, North Carolina Central University (NCCU) School of Law

Wendy Brown Scott received her Bachelor of Arts degree from Harvard University and her Juris Doctor from New York University. She joined the NCCU School of Law faculty in 2006 after 17 years on the Tulane Law School faculty where she served two years as Vice Dean for Academic Affairs. She is a national expert on race law and constitutional law and theory.

Scott joined the Tulane faculty after a successful career in labor law and public interest civil rights advocacy. From 1980 to 1984, she served as a Staff Attorney at the Legal Action Center of the City of New York. The Center represents former substance abusers and ex-offenders in employment and licensing discrimination cases, employers and unions on numerous work place issues. She also worked as an Associate at Vladeck, Waldman, Elias & Engelhard, a union labor and plaintiff employment discrimination law firm in New York City. Prior to joining the Tulane faculty, Professor Scott served as the Associate Counsel for the Center for Law and Social Justice from 1986 to 1989, a community law office and research center in Brooklyn, New York. In that position, she directed all litigation and supervised the preparation of research studies on racial violence, redlining and Charter revision in New York City, while also teaching as an Adjunct Professor at Hunter College, Brooklyn and CUNY Law Schools. Professor Scott has published articles in several professional journals including the Harvard Law Review, Emory Law Journal, University of Tennessee Law Review, Tulane Law Review, Howard Law Journal, Villanova Law Review and Wake Forest Law Review. Her work on the desegregation of public colleges and universities has been widely cited.

# On Point Bulletin: HURRICANE KATRINA and its AFTERMATH

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UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA

**CENTER FOR  
THE STUDY OF RACE  
AND RACE RELATIONS**

## **Mission Statement**

The CSRRR is committed to de-stigmatizing race in America. With the objective of fostering communities of dialogue, the Center embraces historically and empirically based thinking, talking, teaching, and writing on race. To this end, the Center creates and supports programs designed to enhance race-related curriculum development for faculty, staff and students in collegiate and professional schools. Of the five U.S. law schools with race centers, the CSRRR is uniquely focused on curriculum development.

## **Vision**

The Center for the Study of Race and Race Relations (CSRRR) is an academic research and resource center. The Center's mission will be met through the work of various groups engaged in a wide range of activities. This work includes:

- Producing, supporting, and highlighting race-related scholarship within and beyond the UF community
- Gathering, analyzing, and sharing historical and contemporary knowledge about race and race relations
- Developing and supporting—through teaching, research, writing, and workshops—race-related curricula for collegiate and professional schools
- Fostering non-stigmatizing ways of discussing issues of race and ethnicity, including African Americans, Latino/as, American Indians, Asian Americans, and Whites.

## **Invitation**

Please join us in our efforts to identify and address the many difficult but important race-related issues. We look forward to working with you. We welcome your questions and comments at [csrrr@law.ufl.edu](mailto:csrrr@law.ufl.edu).

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22 The New Orleans Hurricane Protection System THE NEW ORLEANS HURRICANE PROTECTION SYSTEM Hydrologic Realities and the Limits of Protective Structures Despite its strategic and economic importance, the New Orleans region always has been vulnerable to flood and hurricane storm surge hazards. Lessons Learned in Hurricane Katrina and Its Aftermath 25 A related lesson from the history and construction of the Lake Pontchartrain and Vicinity Hurricane Protection Project regards the construction of protective structures in low-lying areas, with subsequent settlement in those areas. Hurricane Katrina, tropical cyclone that struck the southeastern United States in August 2005, breaching levees and causing widespread damage and deaths. Ultimately, the storm caused more than \$160 billion in damage, and it reduced the population of New Orleans by 29 percent between the fall of 2005 and 2011. The hurricane and its aftermath claimed more than 1,800 lives, and it ranked as the costliest natural disaster in U.S. history. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration satellite image of Hurricane Katrina, taken on August 28, 2005. NOAA. The storm that would later become Hurricane Katrina surfaced on August 23, 2005, as a tropical depression over the Bahamas, approximately 350 miles (560 km) east of Miami.