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Robert Brown is Assistant Dean for Undergraduate Education at Emory University. He was an Assistant Professor of Political Science and African American Studies at Emory from 1996 to 2003. His publications include “Separate Tables: The Two Attitudinal Dimensions of Black Nationalism,” co-authored with Todd Shaw (*Journal of Politics*, February 2002), and “The Color Line of American Politics: The Vying Ideologies of Blacks and Whites” (*Journal of African American Studies*, August 2004). He is currently completing a manuscript entitled “Black Cities, American Dilemmas: Race and Representation in Urban America.”

James R. Elliott is Assistant Professor of Sociology at Tulane University. His most recent publications include “Race, Gender and Workplace Power” with Ryan A. Smith in *American Sociological Review* (2004); “The Work of Cities: Underemployment and Urban Change in Late-Century America” in *Cityscape* (2004); “Framing the Urban: Struggles over HOPE VI and the New Urbanism in an Historic City” with Kevin Fox Gotham and Melinda J. Milligan in *City and Community* (2004); and “The Effects of Race and Family Structure on Women’s Spatial Relationship to the Labor Market” with Marilyn S. Joyce in *Sociological Inquiry*. He has also published recently on racial and ethnic inequality in *Social Forces*, *Social Problems*, *Social Science Research*, and *Social Science Quarterly*.

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Mary J. Fischer is Assistant Professor of Sociology at the University of Connecticut. She has several recent and forthcoming publications in *City and Community*, *Sociological Perspectives*, *Urban Affairs Review*, and *Ethnic and Racial Studies*. She is also co-author of the *Source of the River: The Social Origins of Freshmen at America's Selective Colleges and Universities* (2003) with Douglas S. Massey, Camille Z. Charles, and Garvey Lundy and is co-author of a chapter entitled "Redrawing Spatial Color Lines: Hispanic Metropolitan Dispersal, Segregation, and Economic Opportunity" with Marta Tienda that is forthcoming in a National Academy of Sciences volume on Hispanics in the United States.

Crystal Marie Fleming is a first year graduate student in the Sociology Ph.D. program at Harvard University. Ms. Fleming received her B.A. in French and Sociology (honors) from Wellesley College and studied abroad at the Université de Provence in France. Her senior honors thesis concerned the sociological dimensions of the spoken word/slam poetry movement. Conducting in-depth interviews with African American performance poets and using participant-observation at poetry venues in Boston and New York, her work focused on the symbolic boundaries of race and class within this aesthetic community. Her current research considers how African Americans use Black professional networks to construct social capital and confront issues of (in)visibility in the workplace.

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Barbara Ransby is an Associate Professor in the departments of African American Studies and History at the University of Illinois at Chicago. She is author of the award-winning biography, *Ella Baker and the Black Freedom Movement: A Radical Democratic Vision* (University of North Carolina Press, 2003). Professor Ransby is also a free-lance writer whose essays have been published in a variety of newspapers and magazines nationwide. She is currently working on two projects: a study of African American feminist organizations in the 1970s and a political biography of Eslanda Robeson. Barbara Ransby is also a longtime community activist.

Todd C. Shaw is an Assistant Professor of Political Science and African-American Studies at the University of South Carolina, Columbia. He has co-authored with Robert Brown the article "Separate nations: Two Dimensions of Black Nationalism" (2002) in the *Journal of Politics*. He has co-authored with Lester Spence the article "Race and Representation in Detroit's Community Development Coalitions" (2004) in the *Annals of the Academy of Political and Social Science*, and is completing a book manuscript entitled "Now Is The Time!: Detroit Black Politics and Grassroots Activism," which is under contract with Duke University Press.

Ryan A. Smith is an Associate Professor in the School of Public Affairs, Baruch College, City University of New York, and a former Scholar in Residence at the W. E. B. Du Bois Institute for African and African American Research at Harvard University. His articles on race and gender stratification in workplace authority have appeared in the *Annual Review of Sociology*, *Work and Occupations*, *Social Problems*, and *Sociological Quarterly* and, with James R. Elliott, in *Social Forces* and the *American Sociological Review*. A forthcoming article on the impact of workplace diversity on promotion outcomes will be published in the *American Behavioral Scientist*, and he is currently working on a book (with James Elliott) titled "Power at Work: Race, Gender and Job Authority" to be published by the Russell Sage Foundation. He serves as an organizational change consultant to public and private organizations.

Lester K. Spence is an Assistant Professor of Political Science and Afro-American Studies at Washington University in Saint Louis. He specializes in race and politics, black politics, urban politics, and political behavior. He was named a Kellogg Scholar in Health Disparities and will spend the next two years in Baltimore at Morgan State University working on a book that examines the impact of urban life on the political attitudes of youth.