

Hate Crimes and Racial Violence

Key Project

In the summer of 1998, three White men, two members of a White Supremacist gang, picked up an African American man named James Byrd, Jr. as he walked home from a party. Byrd was dragged to his death behind a pickup truck and left in front of an African American church in a hate crime that brought national and international attention to Jasper. I spent two-and-a-half years interviewing Jasper residents, sometimes with my students, in an effort to understand the impact of the hate crime on the community.



I eventually interviewed the lead perpetrator of the murder and wrote a psychobiography of the man and his motives in *Long Dark Road: Bill King and Murder in Jasper Texas* (2004, University of Texas Press). *Long Dark Road* was runner up for the Hamilton Best Non-Fiction Award.

Another medium I chose to convey what I learned in Jasper about the impact of the hate crime is a photographic exhibit (underwritten by Humanities Texas and done in collaboration with photographer Sarah Wilson), *The Road to Redemption. Jasper, Texas: The Healing of a Community in Crisis*. Over a period of 12 months the exhibit toured Austin, San Antonio, Dallas, Houston, Galveston, El Paso, and New York City. The exhibit book won the Digital News Award for Best Project (photography, text, design). (See

Ainslie, Ricardo, Sarah Wilson, and D.J. Stout; Austin: Pentagram, 2004).

Publications and Talks Related to Hate Crimes and Communities

Publications

Ainslie, R. (2015) "Trauma, Community, and Contemporary Racial Violence: Reflections on the Architecture of Memory", *The Ethics of Remembering and the Consequences of Forgetting: Essays on Trauma, History and Memory*, O'Loughlin, M. Ed., Lanham, MD, Rowman & Littlefield, pp.309-324

Brabeck, K & Ainslie, R.C. (2008) "The Narration of Collective Trauma: The 'True Story' of Jasper, Texas", *Journal of Psychoanalysis, Culture & Society*

Ainslie, R.C. (2006) "Psychoanalytic Ethnography, Racist Violence, and Jasper, Texas: An Introduction", *Journal of Psychoanalysis, Culture & Society*. Vol 11, pp 97-98.

Ainslie, R. C. (2004) "Psychoanalysis, Psychoanalytic Activists, and Identity," *Psychoanalytic Activist*

Ainslie, R.C., & Hall, E. (2004) "Community Resilience and Grassroots Leadership: Serendipity in the Wake of a Race Murder," *Mind and Human Interaction*

Ainslie, R.C. & Brabeck, K. (2003) "Race Murder and Community Trauma: Psychoanalysis and Ethnography in Exploring the Impact of the Killing of James Byrd in Jasper, Texas", *Journal of Psychoanalysis, Culture & Society*. Vol 8: 1, pp 42-51

Ainslie, R.C. (2001) "The Murder of James Byrd Jr.'s as an Evocation of the Sacred," *The Salt Journal*

Talks

"Psychoanalysis, Visual Representation, and Documentary Forms of Social Intervention", Association for Psychoanalysis, Culture, and Society, New Brunswick, November, 2013

"Psychoanalytically-Informed Interventions in Communities Marked by Unconscious or Disavowed Collective Processes", Dallas Society for Psychoanalytic Psychology, October, 2013

"Diversity Challenge: What to do about Race and Culture and Violence", Boston College, October, 2012

"Life History and Documentary Forms of Inquiry: On the Use of Psychoanalytic Approaches to Understanding Communities Experiencing Ethnic Conflicts", Annual Meeting of the APA Division of Psychoanalysis, Santa Fe, April 2012

"How Attachment Theory Can Help Us Understand Prejudice, Discussant", Annual Meeting of the Division of Psychoanalysis, New York, April, 2011

"Psychoanalytic Education", Association for the Psychoanalysis of Culture and Society, Rutgers University, October 2010

"Psychoanalysis and the Art of Community Engagement", Philadelphia Society for Psychoanalytic Psychology, Swarthmore, PA, April 2010

"The Psychology of Hate", Hallmark Speakers Series, YWCA, Corpus Christi, Texas, January, 2010

"The Psychology of Hate," Hallmark Speakers Series, YWCA, Austin, Texas, August, 2009

"From Couch to Film to Book: Psychoanalysis and the Art of Method", Annual Meetings of The Division of Psychoanalysis, April, 2009

"Psychoanalytic and Cultural Perspectives on Violence", Annual Meetings of The Division of Psychoanalysis, April, 2009

"Defining 'American' Values: What Jasper, Texas Has to Teach Us", (Keynote Speaker) American Studies Graduate Students' Committee Annual Conference, Austin, Texas October, 2005

"Healing Traumatized Communities: Media and Art", (Featured Speaker), Harry Ransom Center, University of Texas at Austin, July, 2005

"Forgiveness: Sociopolitical Considerations", (Panel) American Psychoanalytic Association Meetings, Seattle, June, 2005

"Life Histories and Therapeutic Engagement with Communities: Bridging the Gulf between the Consulting Room and Society", (Keynote Speaker), Social Justice Conference, University of Wisconsin-Madison, March, 2005

"Life History and Documentary Approaches to Inquiry", (Workshop), Social Justice Conference, University of Wisconsin-Madison, March, 2005

"Psychoanalytic Psychology and the Art of Community Intervention: Illustrations from Three Communities Experiencing Ethnic Conflict", National Multicultural Conference and Symposium, Los Angeles, CA, January, 2005

"Racial Consciousness and the Psychodynamics of a Hate Crime", Houston Galveston Psychoanalytic Society, Houston, October, 2004

"Death Row Reality", Senate Chamber, Texas Book Festival, October, 2004

"Identity and Ideology as Organizing Forces in a Race Murder", George Washington University/APCS/Washington School of Psychiatry/Forum on Psychiatry and the Humanities Conference on Identity, Group Psychology and Violence, Washington, DC, May 2004

"Racial Consciousness and the Psychodynamics of a Hate Crime", Humanities Colloquium on Race and Racism, New York University, April, 2004

"Racial Consciousness and the Psychodynamics of a Hate Crime", Annual Meetings of the Division of Psychoanalysis, American Psychological Association, Miami, March 2004

"Jasper, Texas: The Healing of a Community in Crisis", Photography exhibit, The Annex Gallery, New York City, NY, January 2004

"Community Healing and Resilience", All day workshop sponsored by the Mind Science Foundation, San Antonio, Texas. November, 2003

"Psychoanalytic Views on the Murder of James Byrd as Community Trauma", Austin Society for Psychoanalytic Psychology, September, 2003

"Jasper, Texas: The Healing of a Community Crisis", Violence Prevention and Resilience Conference, Houston Psychological Association, May, 2003

"The Murder of James Byrd as Community Trauma: Factors That Facilitated Jasper, Texas's Constructive Response." Center for the Study of Mind and Human Interaction, University of Virginia Medical School, March, 2003

"Race Murder and Community Trauma: The Impact of the Murder of James Byrd on Jasper, Texas", University of Washington – Tacoma, Sponsored by the UW Tacoma Arts and Lecture Series and the UW Tacoma Diversity Taskforce, February, 2003