

The Institute for the Study of Race and Culture presents...

Third Annual Anderson “AJ” Franklin Unity Against Racism Lecture

Thursday, April 24, 2025

7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Merkert 127 Auditorium, Boston College Campus

This event will be live-streamed

Reception to follow in Campion 139



Scan to Register

The annual Anderson "AJ" Franklin Unity Against Racism Lecture is a distinguished event honoring Dr. Franklin's remarkable contributions as a scholar, professional psychology leader, civil rights activist, and community organizer dedicated to combating racial oppression. Each year, a respected scholar and community leader is invited to deliver a lecture on disrupting and dismantling racism within our society, thereby extending Dr. Franklin's legacy and fostering an equitable society that empowers future generations to carry on this critical work.

To learn more about Dr. Franklin, visit: bit.ly/AJFranklin

Applying Liberation Psychology to Heal the Wounds of Racial Trauma

Thema Bryant, Ph.D.

Professor of Psychology, Pepperdine University



Dr. Thema Bryant is a psychologist, author, professor, sacred artist, and minister who leads the way in cultivating healthy relationships, healing traumas, and overcoming stress and oppression. She is the author of "Matters of the Heart" (Penguin Random House), which aims to empower readers to connect with themselves and others. The book delves into topics such as control issues, emotional unavailability, and teaches how to shift mindset and patterns around romance through practical activation activities and case studies.

Dr. Bryant completed her doctorate in Clinical Psychology at Duke University and underwent post-doctoral training at Harvard Medical Center's Victims of Violence Program. Following her graduation, she assumed the role of Coordinator of the Princeton University SHARE Program, which offers intervention and prevention programming to tackle sexual assault, sexual harassment, and harassment based on sexual orientation. In her current position at Pepperdine University, she directs the Culture and Trauma Research Laboratory.

Furthermore, Dr. Bryant is an ordained elder in the African Methodist Episcopal Church and leads the mental health ministry at First A.M.E. Church in Los Angeles. She recently served as the 2023 president of the American Psychological Association (APA) and hosts The Homecoming Podcast.