

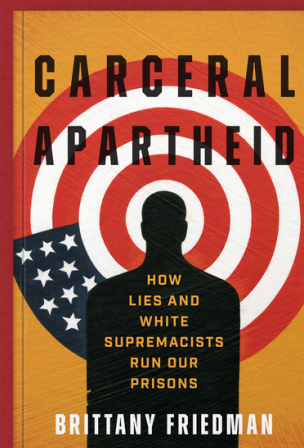


BRITTANY FRIEDMAN

Author • Sociologist • Filmmaker • Creator

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ABOUT BRITTANY



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Dr. Brittany Friedman is recognized as an innovative thinker on how people and institutions hide harmful truths. Her current work examines this in the realm of social control, and the underside of government such as prisons, courts, and treasuries. Friedman is considered a pathbreaking scholar producing big ideas that blow the whistle on bad behavior within society, and author of a January 2025 book titled *CARCERAL APARTHEID: HOW LIES AND WHITE SUPREMACISTS RUN OUR PRISONS*.



SYSTEMIC
a podcast about race

npr Network

ZORA

JACOBIN *THE* Nation. Los Angeles Times

brittanyfriedman.com

LONG BIO



Dr. Brittany Friedman is recognized as an innovative thinker on how people and institutions hide harmful truths. Her current work examines this in the realm of social control, and the underside of government such as prisons, courts, and treasuries. Friedman is considered a pathbreaking scholar producing big ideas that blow the whistle on bad behavior within society, and author of a January 2025 book titled *CARCERAL APARTHEID: HOW LIES AND WHITE SUPREMACISTS RUN OUR PRISONS*. Past media appearances include interviews on national and morning news (*ABC News*, *NPR Morning Edition*, *This is Hell! Radio*), bylines and quotes in major print media (*The Washington Post*, *Jacobin Magazine*, *The Nation*), academic print media (*Public Seminar*, *Contexts Magazine*), a national celebrity podcast (*The Untold Story w/ Jay Ellis*), and research features in major print media (*Vox*, *The Appeal*). Friedman has also submitted invited written testimony outlining her explosive research findings for federal (*U.S. House of Representatives Committee on the Judiciary*) and state lawmakers (*Connecticut General Assembly Judiciary Committee*) and has been invited to present to lawmakers at The National Association of Sentencing Commissions annual meeting. She has received numerous awards and fellowships to support her research, including a university presidential nomination to the Andrew Carnegie Foundation Fellows—winning fellowships from the National Science Foundation, American Bar Foundation, Arnold Ventures, and the American Society of Criminology. Friedman trained at Vanderbilt, Columbia, and Northwestern. She is an Assistant Professor of Sociology at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles and is a Faculty Affiliate of the Equity Research Institute and an Affiliated Scholar of the American Bar Foundation. In addition to public and academic writing, Friedman supports filmmakers and broadcast teams by grounding narrative storytelling in social research as an executive producer and technical adviser.

CARCERAL APARTHEID

HOW LIES AND WHITE SUPREMACISTS RUN OUR PRISONS

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PRAISE CARCERAL APARTHEID

"A pathbreaking work full of explosive findings on the coordination of white supremacy, corrections, policing, and the lies to cover it up. *Carceral Apartheid* will shock readers and make headlines." —**Nicole Gonzalez Van Cleve**, author of *Crook County: Racism and Injustice in America's Largest Criminal Court*

"Brittany Friedman's concept of carceral apartheid lays the groundwork for a new way of understanding racism within American prisons and the deployment of racism and empire as a governing strategy of society." —**Michael L. Walker**, author of *Indefinite: Doing Time in Jail*

"A searing analysis of entrenched white supremacy. With unmatched clarity, urgency, and grace, this chilling account is an overdue reckoning with the pervasive racism that continues to scar our social world." —**Laurence Ralph**, author of *Sito: An American Teenager and the City That Failed Him*

"Carceral Apartheid is a page-turning autopsy of white supremacy at work in our prisons and in our government, a social history of Black liberation movements, a genealogy of a murder, and a reckoning with the death-dealing consequences of our obsessions with prisons, punishment, and racial domination." —**Reuben Jonathan Miller**, MacArthur Fellow and author of *Halfway Home: Race, Punishment, and the Afterlife of Mass Incarceration*



It is impossible to deny the impact of lies and white supremacy on the institutional conditions in US prisons. There is a particular power dynamic of racist intent in the prison system that culminates in what Brittany Friedman terms "carceral apartheid." Prisons are a microcosm of how carceral apartheid operates as a larger governing strategy to decimate political targets and foster deceit, disinformation, and division in society.

Among many shocking discoveries, Friedman shows that beginning in the 1950s, California prison officials declared war on imprisoned Black people and sought to identify Black militants as a key problem, creating a strategy for the management, segregation, and elimination of these individuals from the prison population that continues into the present day. *Carceral Apartheid* delves into how the California Department of Corrections deployed various official, clandestine, and at times extralegal control techniques, including officer alliances with imprisoned white supremacists, to suppress Black political movements, revealing the broader themes of deception, empire, corruption, and white supremacy in American mass incarceration. Drawing from original interviews with founders of Black political movements such as the Black Guerilla Family, white supremacists, and a swath of little-known archival data, Friedman uncovers how the US domestic war against imprisoned Black people models and perpetuates genocide, imprisonment, and torture abroad.

RELATED WORKS



PUBLICATIONS

Edited Volumes

- April D. Fernandes,* Brittany Friedman,* and Gabriela Kirk-Werner.* (Forthcoming December 2024). *Dismantling the Shadow Carceral State: Theoretical Criminology*.

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- Fernandes, April D.,* Brittany Friedman,* and Gabriela Kirk-Werner. (Accepted for publication). "Civil Lawfare." *Social Problems*.
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