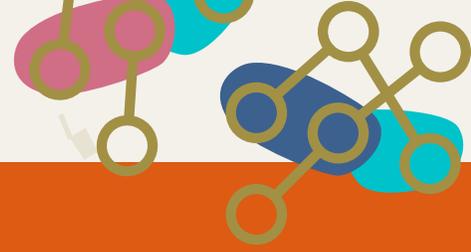


Tressie McMillan Cotton

SOCIOLOGIST. WRITER. 2020 MACARTHUR FELLOW.



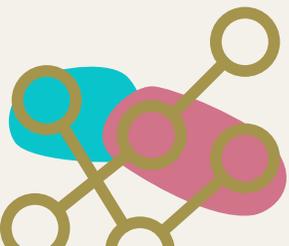


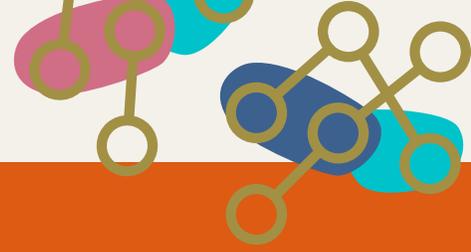
Biography

A trenchant cultural critic, celebrated sociologist, and award-winning writer, Tressie McMillan Cottom is known for rearranging your brain in the span of a carefully-turned phrase. Her breadth is phenomenal – it moves from the racial hierarchy of beauty standards and the class codes of dressing for work to the predation of for-profit colleges and the stain of racial capitalism on our plural democracy – all while reimagining the essay form for the 21st century as she goes.

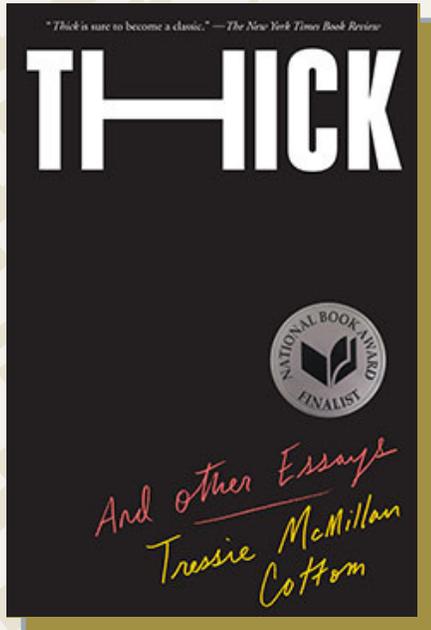
Tressie McMillan Cottom is a professor at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, a 2020 MacArthur Foundation Fellow, and New York Times contributing opinion writer.

[Click here for our press folder to access high res photos and editable bio.](#) *Please credit Tausha Dickinson.*

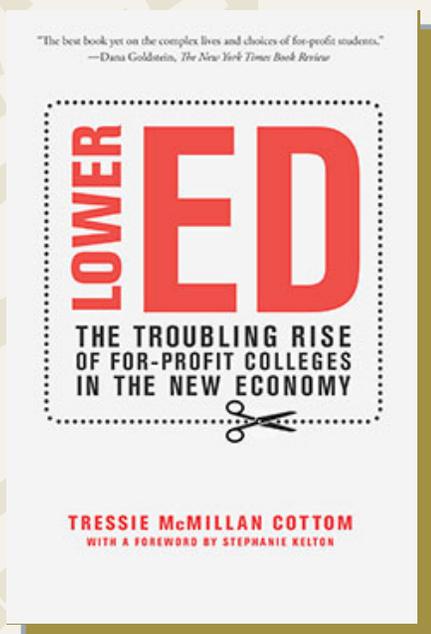




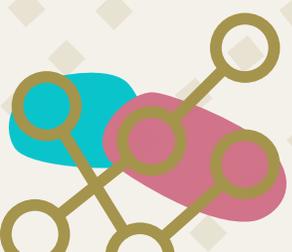
Books

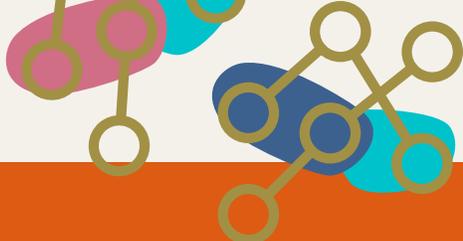


Tressie's 2019 collection *Thick: and Other Essays* has been described as “essential,” and the Chicago Tribune calls Tressie, “the author you need to read now.” Dorothy Roberts compares reading it to “holding a mirror to your soul and to that of America.” *Thick* was the winner of the Brooklyn Public Library Literary Prize and was a finalist for the 2019 National Book Award.



The foundation for Tressie's first book, *Lower Ed: The Troubling Rise of For-Profit Colleges in the New Economy*, was formed by dissertation research for her doctorate from Emory University's Laney Graduate School. In *Lower Ed*, Tressie questions the fundamental narrative of American education policy. Carol Anderson calls *Lower Ed*, “nuanced, carefully argued, and engagingly written.”





MacArthur Fellow

Tressie McMillan Cottom

Sociologist, Writer, and Public Scholar

Class of 2020

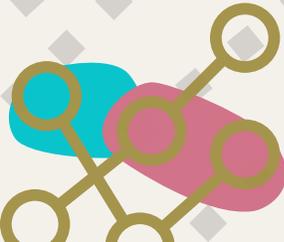
Shaping discourse on highly topical issues at the confluence of race, gender, education, and digital technology for broad audiences.

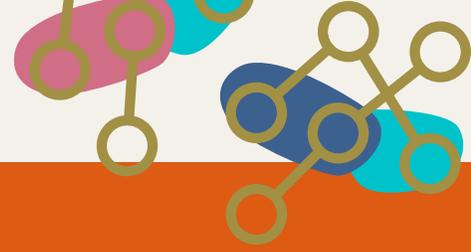
Link to Fellowship Profile:

<https://www.macfound.org/fellows/class-of-2020/tressie-mcmillan-cottom>

"Public life is just a story that has been written to justify some atrocities as natural and some lives as disposable. When I say that I write stories to make problems for power, I mean that I rewrite the metaphors we use to rationalize big inequalities in the small decisions that make up our everyday lives—how we go to school, how we work, how we consume and how we love. My life's creative challenge is wielding the tension between powerful narrative and compelling data to center Black intellectual lives as craft and method. "Radically better metaphors for a radically better public life."

- Tressie McMillan Cottom





Reach

Social stats, January 2022



202.5K Twitter followers



33.1K Instagram followers



6.9K Facebook followers

featured in

The New York Times

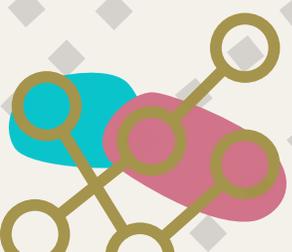
 msnbc

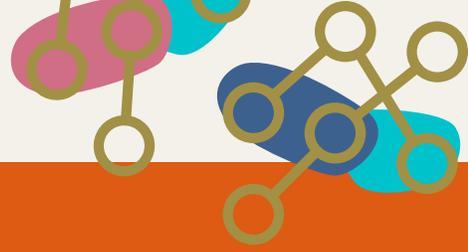
THE DAILYSHOW
WITH TREVOR NOAH

FRESH AIR

BAZAAR^{Harpers}

VANITY FAIR





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