



# AAG

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION  
of GEOGRAPHERS

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## On the Forces that Shape Police Brutality

The lives of all of us are touched by the systemic forces that shape police brutality. Geographers have a special lens to understand and document this ever rising and unjust violence. Worse, as geographer Rashad Shabazz *wrote in [The Conversation](#)*, “Policing in the U.S. has, from its inception, treated Black people as domestic enemies.”

Our role, as scientists, is to recognize, document, and so bear witness. We believe that citational praxes are one way that we can continue to participate in identifying root causes and evidence-based strategies to reduce the structural biases that lead to murder in policing.

AAG is offering a [resource list](#) that brings together work by geographers and colleagues in other disciplines to illuminate how “police and policing [are] a multifaceted manifestation of state power, coercion, and territoriality” (Bloch, 2021). We support the AAG members who are committed to studying and working to change these structural issues in their work and lived experiences. We want to thank the [AAG Black Geographies Specialty Group](#) for the [extensive reading list](#) it has curated for five years. In addition, we also have created a list of [Black Geographies articles from AAG journals](#), available with free access through December 2023.

We stand with you in our commitment to research and action toward a more just world.

Sincerely,

Gary M. Langham, Ph.D.  
AAG Executive Director

Marilyn Raphael, Ph.D.  
AAG President