

BLACK ACADEMIC LOSS AND SURVIVAL ARCHIVE

A documented record of deaths, departures, denied roles, interrupted study and survival under institutional pressure

VERSION 1.2

15 core cases | 33 captured source records | 6 collective testimony collections | Reviewed August 15, 2026

This is a documented-case archive, not a mortality study. Its totals describe what has been found and carefully recorded. They do not measure the full prevalence of racism in academia, and they do not infer that an institution caused a person's death.

What the archive currently counts

15 CORE CASES	4 LITERAL DEATHS	2 CONFIRMED SUICIDES	11 LIVING CASES
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CATEGORY	COUNTED WHEN	NEVER TREATED AS
Literal death	A credible public source or consented private record confirms the death.	Proof that academia caused the death.
Academic departure or relocation	A person resigns, relocates or exits a role and the event is documented.	A literal death or automatic proof of discrimination.
Role loss or denied appointment	Tenure, leadership, contract or appointment is denied or relinquished.	Departure from academia unless the person actually leaves.
Interrupted study or survival	A student pauses or leaves study to protect life, health or stability.	Failure. The person remains living and agentic.

The missing category we should add as the archive grows is documented harm while remaining in academia. It would capture racism, retaliation, disability discrimination, medical leave, stalled progression or public targeting when the person has not left.

How we extend the count from what is already public

The archive now uses three connected records. The Source Capture Log records every item we find. The Case Ledger records people only after sources have been reviewed, duplicates checked and events classified. The Collective Testimony Register preserves public-post corpora, essay collections, interviews, surveys and institutional consultations without turning unlike units into one misleading total.

1. FIND	2. CAPTURE	3. VERIFY	4. LINK OR CLASSIFY
News, academic work, university reports, professional statements, legal records and archives.	Give the item a Source ID; save its date, URL, author, platform, person or population, institution and outcome signal.	Separate established facts from first-person testimony, third-party interpretation and institutional response.	Link it to a person-level case, record it as a collective collection, or hold it as a lead requiring more evidence.

WHERE TO SEARCH

- Reputable news outlets and the Black press
- Academic journals, books, reports, theses and conference material
- University newsrooms, obituaries, reviews and senate or board records
- LinkedIn, Substack, Medium and public resignation letters written by the person
- Tribunal, court, union and professional-association records
- Archived webpages, oral histories and institutional collections

HOW LINKEDIN SHOULD BE USED

A public LinkedIn post written by the person is reliable evidence that they publicly described an experience. It is not, by itself, independent proof of every allegation in the post.

- Record the exact URL, author, publication date and date found.
- Paraphrase briefly; do not copy a whole post into the archive.
- Save a screenshot or PDF for preservation only when lawful and necessary.
- Treat a third-party post as a lead until the subject or another source corroborates it.
- Preserve an institutional response or contrary finding when one exists.

Collective testimony: what is already counted

These collections show that the volume is real and already partly documented. The ethical answer is not to discard social-media testimony. It is to name the counting unit, preserve the denominator and state what the number cannot prove.

VISIBLE SCALE • One defined #BlackInTheIvory corpus contains 12,538 original public posts. That is a count of posts—not 12,538 people, separate incidents or adjudicated findings.

ID	COLLECTION	REPORTED SCALE	UNIT	BOUNDARY
CT-001	#BlackInTheIvory public-post corpus	12,538 original public posts; 2,500 top-retweeted posts analyzed	Original public posts	Not a count of people, incidents or prevalence.
CT-002	Being Black in the Ivory essay collection	More than 60 essays / stories	Essays or contributions	Selected essays; not a population sample.
CT-003	Racial equity trauma qualitative study	23 participants	Interview participants	Qualitative sample; not a prevalence estimate.
CT-004	Black Student Advisory Committee review	More than 60 consultation participants; 378 survey respondents; 86 answered one or both open-ended questions; 45 of those 86 described racism in some form	Consultation participants, survey respondents and open-ended respondents	Groups may overlap and question denominators differ.
CT-005	University of Calgary Black student study	113 Black student participants	Study participants	Sample only; possible overlap with the broader project.
CT-006	Anti-Black Racism Task Force public record	Not reported as a reliable participant total	Documents, correspondence and prior consultations	A reliable participant total was not reported.

[CT-001: primary source](#)

[CT-003: primary source](#)

[CT-005: primary source](#)

[CT-002: primary source](#)

[CT-004: primary source](#)

[CT-006: primary source](#)

A repeatable public-record search

SEARCH STRING	PURPOSE
"Black professor" resigns racism university	Faculty departures
"Black academic" bullying discrimination university	Workplace harm
"Black scholar" tenure denied racism	Tenure and appointment loss
"Black PhD student" withdrew racism	Interrupted doctoral study
"Black doctoral student" discrimination university	Student discrimination
"Black dean" resigns racism	Leadership exits
"Black faculty" mental health university	Health and workplace pressure
site:linkedin.com/posts "Black academic" racism	First-person professional testimony
site:linkedin.com/posts professor resigning discrimination	Resignation testimony
site:medium.com "Black academic" university racism	Long-form first-person accounts
"in memoriam" "Black professor" university	Deaths and memorial records
"independent review" "Black professor" university	Official reviews and panels

THE SOURCE CAPTURE LOG RECORDS

- Source ID and date found	- Person, country and institution
- Source type and publisher	- Author or speaker and publication date
- URL or preserved record	- What the source actually establishes
- Possible outcome category	- First-person, family, institutional or third-party voice
- Evidence rating and verification status	- Linked case ID or new lead
- Publication or consent limits	- Whether an archive copy is saved
- Causation and use note	- Last-reviewed date
- Collection ID and reported denominator	- Unit counted and known overlap

Evidence ladder and current case index

RATING	MEANING	HOW IT IS USED
A	Official record and/or multiple credible sources.	Strongest public case record.
B	Credible reporting plus a first-person or public statement.	Publish with attribution.
C	Personal account or limited public evidence.	Private, provisional or carefully qualified.
D	Lead requiring verification.	Research queue; not treated as established.

ID	NAME	COUNTRY	YEAR	OUTCOME	STATUS
BA-001	Jason Arday	United Kingdom	2026	Literal death	Verified; causation unknown
BA-002	Antoinette "Bonnie" Candia-Bailey	United States	2024	Literal death	Contested
BA-003	Bongani Mayosi	South Africa	2018	Literal death	Verified; causation unknown
BA-004	Roslyn Thomas-Long	Canada	2023	Literal death	Needs date verification
BA-005	Carla Rodney	Canada	2025	Interrupted study / survival	Private first-person
BA-006	Alena Allen	United States	2021	Academic departure / relocation	Verified
BA-007	Lesley Lokko	United States	2020	Academic departure / relocation	Verified
BA-008	Dena Simmons	United States	2021	Academic departure / relocation	Verified
BA-009	Tommy J. Curry	United States to United Kingdom	2019	Academic departure / relocation	Verified
BA-010	Charmaine A. Nelson	Canada to United States	2022	Academic departure / relocation	Verified
BA-011	Nathaniel Adam Tobias Coleman	United Kingdom	2015	Role loss / denied appointment	Needs second source
BA-012	Nikole Hannah-Jones	United States	2021	Role loss / denied appointment	Verified
BA-013	Cornel West	United States	2021	Academic departure / relocation	Verified
BA-014	Claudine Gay	United States	2024	Role loss / denied appointment	Verified
BA-015	Lorgia García Peña	United States	2019	Role loss / denied appointment	Verified

Case records 1-2

BA-001 | Jason Arday

United Kingdom | University of Cambridge | Professor of Sociology of Education | Event: 2026-08-14

Outcome: Literal death - Unexpected death; cause pending

Established: Found dead after resigning nine days earlier while Cambridge was investigating plagiarism and misconduct allegations.

Attributed account: His family said a three-year campaign of abuse and misinformation had become too much. This is their account, not a finding about cause of death.

Institutional response: Cambridge had opened a formal investigation. Police said the death was unexpected but not suspicious.

Evidence: A - official / multiple credible sources | **Status:** Verified; causation unknown | **Publication:** Publicly sourced

Guardrail: Death cause pending; academic or public pressure is not established as the cause.

[Source 1: theguardian.com](#)

[Source 2: goodlawproject.org](#)

BA-002 | Antoinette "Bonnie" Candia-Bailey

United States | Lincoln University (Missouri) | Vice President for Student Affairs | Event: 2024-01-08

Outcome: Literal death - Death by suicide

Established: Died by suicide five days after her termination from Lincoln University.

Attributed account: In complaints and accounts from supporters, she alleged bullying, harassment and discrimination.

Institutional response: A university-commissioned independent review reported no evidence that the president bullied her; supporters disputed the review's framing and independence.

Evidence: A - official / multiple credible sources | **Status:** Contested | **Publication:** Publicly sourced

Guardrail: Suicide is confirmed; institutional causation remains contested and is not asserted here.

[Source 1: abcnews.com](#)

[Source 2: lincolnu.edu](#)

Case records 3-4

BA-003 | Bongani Mayosi

South Africa | University of Cape Town | Dean, Faculty of Health Sciences; cardiologist | Event: 2018-07-27

Outcome: Literal death - Death by suicide

Established: Died by suicide while serving as dean.

Attributed account: An independent panel described hostility, isolation, repeated attempts to resign, deteriorating mental health and converging institutional pressures.

Institutional response: UCT published the panel report, which found that the university did not provide sufficient support as his health deteriorated.

Evidence: A - official / multiple credible sources | **Status:** Verified; causation unknown | **Publication:** Publicly sourced

Guardrail: The panel identified converging pressures; no single cause of suicide is asserted.

[Source 1: news.uct.ac.za](https://news.uct.ac.za)

[Source 2: dailymaverick.co.za](https://dailymaverick.co.za)

BA-004 | Roslyn Thomas-Long

Canada | University of Toronto / OISE / Transitional Year Programme | Educator, mentor and scholar | Event: 2023 (exact date unverified)

Outcome: Literal death - Death from illness

Established: Public memorials confirm her death and educational work; a first-person account from Carla Rodney records that she died of cancer.

Attributed account: Her scholarship documented exclusion in graduate education. No claim is made that academia caused her illness or death.

Institutional response: No relevant institutional dispute identified. OISE memorialized her contribution.

Evidence: C - personal account plus limited public record | **Status:** Needs date verification | **Publication:** Mixed: public + personal

Guardrail: Cancer is recorded in a first-person account; academia is not described as causing her illness or death.

[Source 1: oise.utoronto.ca](https://oise.utoronto.ca)

[Source 2: peterlang.com](https://peterlang.com)

Case records 5-6

BA-005 | Carla Rodney

Canada | University of Toronto / OISE | PhD candidate, Social Justice Education | Event: 2025-10

Outcome: Interrupted study / survival - Doctoral withdrawal / interruption

Established: Withdrew from the PhD program in October 2025 amid grief, disability, housing instability and documented institutional failures.

Attributed account: Her first-person record describes withdrawal as an act of survival and a loss of trust in the university.

Institutional response: No institutional response is entered in the public ledger; supporting materials remain private.

Evidence: C - private first-person archive | **Status:** Private first-person | **Publication:** Private until Carla approves

Guardrail: Living person; this is an academic interruption and survival record, not a literal death.

Source 1: Private first-person archive

Source 2: Not public

BA-006 | Alena Allen

United States | University of Memphis Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law | Professor of Law | Event: 2021

Outcome: Academic departure / relocation - Faculty resignation / relocation

Established: Resigned after promotion to full professor and left for another institution.

Attributed account: She cited racial profiling, racist institutional patterns and failures to act on reported concerns.

Institutional response: The university emphasized its commitment to inclusion and announced a review of climate and practices.

Evidence: B - credible reporting + first-person statement | **Status:** Verified | **Publication:** Publicly sourced

Guardrail: Living person; reported reasons are attributed to her and not converted into a causal finding.

[Source 1: insidehighered.com](#)

Case records 7-8

BA-007 | Lesley Lokko

United States | City College of New York, Spitzer School of Architecture | Dean | Event: 2020-10

Outcome: Academic departure / relocation - Leadership resignation

Established: Resigned as dean after approximately ten months.

Attributed account: She cited a lack of meaningful support, a crippling workload and racism.

Institutional response: The institution pointed to pandemic conditions and the difficulty of organizational change.

Evidence: B - credible reporting + first-person statement | **Status:** Verified | **Publication:** Publicly sourced

Guardrail: Living person; the reasons for resignation are presented as her account.

[Source 1: insidehighered.com](#)

BA-008 | Dena Simmons

United States | Yale Center for Emotional Intelligence | Assistant Director | Event: 2021-01

Outcome: Academic departure / relocation - Staff / research leadership resignation

Established: Resigned from the Yale Center for Emotional Intelligence.

Attributed account: She said she had been tokenized, undermined and bullied and that Yale had failed to keep her safe, including after racist disruption of an online event.

Institutional response: Yale referred to privacy limits, reporting resources and its response to the racist attack.

Evidence: B - credible reporting + first-person statement | **Status:** Verified | **Publication:** Publicly sourced

Guardrail: Living person; the workplace account is attributed to Simmons.

[Source 1: insidehighered.com](#)

Case records 9-10

BA-009 | Tommy J. Curry

United States to United Kingdom | Texas A&M University to University of Edinburgh | Professor of Philosophy | Event: 2019

Outcome: Academic departure / relocation - Faculty relocation after threats

Established: Left a tenured role at Texas A&M for the University of Edinburgh.

Attributed account: He described receiving death threats and believed his university sided with critics rather than protecting him.

Institutional response: No detailed institutional response is recorded in the current source set.

Evidence: B - credible reporting + first-person statement | **Status:** Verified | **Publication:** Publicly sourced

Guardrail: Living person; the link between threats, institutional response and departure is presented as his account.

[Source 1: insidehighered.com](https://insidehighered.com)

BA-010 | Charmaine A. Nelson

Canada to United States | NSCAD University to University of Massachusetts Amherst | Professor; Tier 1 Canada Research Chair; institute founder | Event: 2022-04

Outcome: Academic departure / relocation - Faculty resignation / relocation

Established: Tendered her resignation from NSCAD and later moved to UMass Amherst.

Attributed account: She cited racism, workplace disorganization, blocked grant access and insufficient authority to lead the institute she founded.

Institutional response: A case-specific institutional response has not yet been located in the present evidence set.

Evidence: B - credible reporting + current institutional profile | **Status:** Verified | **Publication:** Publicly sourced

Guardrail: Living person; reported reasons are attributed to Nelson.

[Source 1: ronfanfair.com](https://ronfanfair.com)

[Source 2: umass.edu](https://umass.edu)

Case records 11-12

BA-011 | Nathaniel Adam Tobias Coleman

United Kingdom | University College London | Research associate in philosophy of race | Event: 2015

Outcome: Role loss / denied appointment - Contract non-renewal / program rejection

Established: A proposed MA focused on race was rejected and his fixed-term position did not become permanent.

Attributed account: He attributed the outcome to challenging white dominance within philosophy and the university.

Institutional response: The current record relies on reporting of his account; a fuller institutional response and second independent source are still needed.

Evidence: D - lead requiring verification | **Status:** Needs second source | **Publication:** Publicly sourced

Guardrail: Living person; disputed interpretation requires further verification.

[Source 1: timeshighereducation.com](https://www.timeshighereducation.com)

[Source 2: dailynous.com](https://www.dailynous.com)

BA-012 | Nikole Hannah-Jones

United States | University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill | Knight Chair appointee; journalist and professor | Event: 2021-07

Outcome: Role loss / denied appointment - Tenure dispute; appointment declined

Established: After an initial non-tenured appointment and public dispute, UNC offered tenure; she declined and joined Howard University.

Attributed account: She cited political interference, lack of transparency and being treated differently as the first Black person selected for the chair.

Institutional response: UNC trustees ultimately approved tenure after extensive public scrutiny.

Evidence: A - official outcome / multiple credible sources | **Status:** Verified | **Publication:** Publicly sourced

Guardrail: Living person; the record distinguishes the initial denial, later offer and her decision to leave.

[Source 1: vanityfair.com](https://www.vanityfair.com)

[Source 2: newsroom.howard.edu](https://newsroom.howard.edu)

Case records 13-14

BA-013 | Cornel West

United States | Harvard Divinity School | Professor of the Practice of Public Philosophy | Event: 2021-06-30

Outcome: Academic departure / relocation - Faculty resignation after tenure dispute

Established: Resigned from Harvard after a dispute over tenure and institutional treatment.

Attributed account: He alleged discrimination, spiritual rot and the shadow of Jim Crow in his resignation letter.

Institutional response: Harvard did not publicly discuss confidential personnel details in depth.

Evidence: B - first-person statement + credible reporting | **Status:** Verified | **Publication:** Publicly sourced

Guardrail: Living person; allegations are attributed to West and not stated as adjudicated facts.

[Source 1: washingtonpost.com](https://www.washingtonpost.com)

[Source 2: independent.co.uk](https://www.independent.co.uk)

BA-014 | Claudine Gay

United States | Harvard University | President; Professor of Government and African and African American Studies | Event: 2024-01-02

Outcome: Role loss / denied appointment - Leadership resignation

Established: Resigned as Harvard president after controversy over congressional testimony and plagiarism allegations; remained on the faculty.

Attributed account: She said personal attacks and threats were fueled by racial animus.

Institutional response: Harvard's review found inadequate citations but not research misconduct; the governing boards accepted her resignation.

Evidence: A - official / multiple credible sources | **Status:** Verified | **Publication:** Publicly sourced

Guardrail: Living person; this is loss of a leadership role, not departure from academia.

[Source 1: harvard.edu](https://www.harvard.edu)

[Source 2: apnews.com](https://www.apnews.com)

Case records 15-15

BA-015 | Lorgia García Peña

United States | Harvard University | Assistant Professor of Romance Languages and Literatures | Event: 2019-11

Outcome: Role loss / denied appointment - Tenure denial

Established: Was denied tenure despite reported support from her department and review committees; she later secured tenure elsewhere.

Attributed account: Supporters and García Peña described racial and disciplinary marginalization in the process.

Institutional response: Harvard did not reverse the decision; the case prompted protest and scrutiny of tenure procedures.

Evidence: B - multiple credible reports | **Status:** Verified | **Publication:** Publicly sourced

Guardrail: Living person; the ledger records the decision and attributes interpretations of bias.

[Source 1: newyorker.com](#)

[Source 2: thecrimson.com](#)

The gaps are part of the finding

Public reporting strongly favours prominent professors and senior administrators. The people hardest to count are often doctoral students, contingent staff, disabled scholars and those whose departure never became news.

GAP	NEXT RESEARCH ACTION
Black Canadian doctoral attrition	Search dissertations, student media, tribunal records and consented first-person writing.
Disabled Black scholars	Search disability scholarship, accommodation disputes, advocacy records and public professional testimony.
Quiet departures	Use public resignation announcements and professional updates, while avoiding inference when a reason is not stated.
Caribbean, African and non-English sources	Partner with regional researchers and search local-language news, unions and university records.
Historical cases	Search the Black press, oral histories, union files, obituaries and university archives.
LinkedIn and professional spaces	Run regular searches, record direct statements as attributed testimony and look for corroboration.

A PRACTICAL RHYTHM	PUBLIC WORDING
- Weekly: capture newly found sources without deciding too quickly. - Monthly: verify, deduplicate and link sources to cases. - Quarterly: publish updated minimum counts and known gaps. - Continuously: correct records and preserve right of reply.	We have documented a minimum number of cases found in available public and consented records. The archive is incomplete by design and grows as evidence is located, verified and responsibly recorded.

Prepared for Carla Rodney | Grandma Knows Best