

"How Killing Black Children is an American Tradition"

Tuesday, February 28, 2017 — 6:00 PM

Alumni Memorial Building, Cox Auditorium



Dr. Stacey Patton: Journalist and Scholar

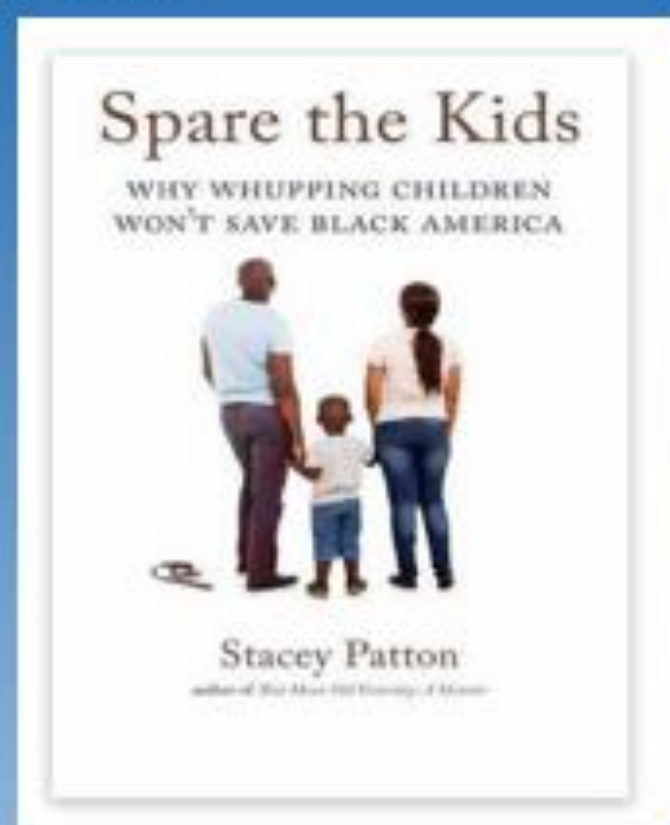
Dr. Stacey P. Patton is an award-winning journalist, author, professor and child advocate whose work focuses on child abuse prevention, racial disparities in foster care and juvenile justice, race, power, and privilege in child welfare practice and the role of trauma in the African-American experience. She was formerly a senior enterprise reporter with The Chronicle of Higher Education where she covered graduate education, faculty life and research, and race and diversity issues. She writes frequently about race for The Washington Post, Al Jazeera, BBC News, The Root.com, and is a columnist for DAME Magazine. Despite growing up in foster care and surviving child abuse, Dr. Patton escaped the system, was awarded a full scholarship to boarding school, attended Johns Hopkins and New York University and then went on to earn her Ph.D. in African American History from Rutgers University in 2011. She is an Assistant Professor of Journalism at [Morgan State University](#) in Baltimore, Maryland.

Patton has worked as a Senior Writer at the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, a Project Historian at the Montclair Historical Society, a Metro Reporter at The Washington Post, and as a Metro/Features Reporter at The Baltimore Sun. She is the founder of the child advocacy group Spare the Kids, Inc., which hosts an interactive web portal about raising children in non-violent ways. She's been a guest on the Melissa Harris-Perry Show (MSNBC) and on National Public Radio.

A Lecture by:

Dr. Stacey Patton

Dr. Patton is the recipient of the 2015 Vernon Jarrett Medal for Excellence in Journalism from Morgan State University's School for Global Journalism and Communication and the Open Society Foundation. She received this award for her coverage on race in academia. She is also the recipient of awards from the National Association of Black Journalists, the William Randolph Hearst Foundation, the National Education Writer's Association, and the Society of Professional Journalists. In addition to her work as a journalist, she is the author of [That Mean Old Yesterday: A Memoir \(2007\)](#) and she is currently working on two book projects: "Spare the Kids: Why Whooping Children Won't Save Black America," and "Strung Up: The Lynching of African American Children during Jim Crow." She resides in the DC-Metro area.



Sponsors: Africana Studies, Child and Family Studies, Anthropology, Sociology, History, Office of Multicultural Student Life, Journalism and Electronic Media, and the College of Communication and Information.

The University of Tennessee, Knoxville

How Killing Black Children is an American Tradition:
A Lecture by Dr. Stacey Patton

Drawing from her work and research on black child advocacy, Dr. Stacey Patton's lecture will cover the sexualization of black children, denial of innocence, and lynching of black children as young as age four. She will take the audience through the racialization process of black children which begins in the womb, then at the moment of birth, through infancy, adolescence, and then the destruction of black children by puberty. She argues that killing black children is necessary part of maintaining white supremacy in the United States. This reality, in turn, informs so much of the fear in black parenting which manifests itself in the physical punishment of black children through "whapping".