



RUTGERSUNIVERSITYPRESS News

106 Somerset Street, 3rd Floor, New Brunswick, NJ 08901

rutgersuniversitypress.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact us: publicity@rutgersuniversitypress.org

Way Down in the Hole

Race, Intimacy, and the Reproduction of Racial Ideologies in Solitary Confinement

ANGELA J. HATTERY AND EARL SMITH

“A stunning exposé and call to change, *Way Down in the Hole* lays bare the racism of our criminal justice system as it extends into the horror of solitary confinement. No stone is left unturned; Angela J. Hattery and Earl Smith have made us aware.”

— Mary Buser, author of *Lockdown on Rikers: Shocking Stories of Abuse and Injustice at New York’s Notorious Jail*

Based on ethnographic observations and interviews with prisoners, correctional officers, and civilian staff conducted in solitary confinement units, *Way Down in the Hole* explores the myriad ways in which daily, intimate interactions between those locked up twenty-four hours a day and the correctional officers charged with their care, custody, and control produce and reproduce hegemonic racial ideologies. Smith and Hattery explore the outcome of building prisons in rural, economically depressed communities, staffing them with white people who live in and around these communities, filling them with Black and brown bodies from urban areas and then designing the structure of solitary confinement units such that the most private, intimate daily bodily functions take place in very public ways. Under these conditions, it shouldn’t be surprising, but is rarely considered, that such daily interactions produce and reproduce white racial resentment among many correctional officers and fuel the racialized tensions that prisoners often describe as the worst forms of dehumanization. *Way Down in the Hole* concludes with recommendations for reducing the use of solitary confinement, reforming its use in a limited context, and most importantly, creating an environment in which prisoners and staff co-exist in ways that recognize their individual humanity and reduce rather than reproduce racial antagonisms and racial resentment.

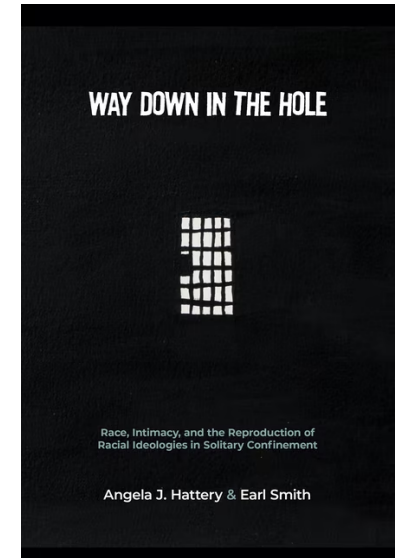
ANGELA J. HATTERY is a professor of women and gender studies and co-director of the Center for the Study and Prevention of Gender-Based Violence at the University of Delaware in Newark. She is the author of eleven books, including *Policing Black Bodies: How Black Lives Are Surveilled and How to Work for Change* and *The Social Dynamics of Family Violence* (both with Earl Smith).

EARL SMITH is a professor of women and gender studies at the University of Delaware in Newark. He also holds the position of Emeritus Rubin Distinguished Professor of American Ethnic Studies and Sociology at Wake Forest University. He is the author of thirteen books, including *Policing Black Bodies: How Black Lives Are Surveilled and How to Work for Change* and *The Social Dynamics of Family Violence* (both with Angela J. Hattery).

Publishing October 2022

Paperback | \$32.95 | 9781978823785 | 238 pages, 7 B&W images | 6.12 x 9.25

Cloth and e-book available



Please email requests for review copies to publicity@rutgersuniversitypress.org and be sure to include the title, author, ISBN number, as well as the address of the person to whom the book should be sent.

“With passion, clarity, and sociological depth, Professors Hattery and Smith analyze and deconstruct the highest stage of white supremacy in contemporary America: solitary confinement. *Way Down in the Hole* is antiracist ethnography at its best, an instant classic.”

— Eduardo Bonilla-Silva, author of *Racism without Racists: Color-Blind Racism and the Persistence of Racial Inequality in America*

“Earl Smith and Angela J. Hattery provide us with a startling view of how solitary confinement in U.S. prisons both dehumanizes and racializes. *Way Down in the Hole* is an insightful analysis of this abuse and the structure of racist lies within society by which it is maintained.”

— Rory McVeigh, author of *The Politics of Losing: Trump, the Klan, and the Mainstreaming of Resentment*