

# "CRADLE OF THE CONFEDERACY, BIRTHPLACE OF CIVIL RIGHTS"

Social Memory and Landscapes of Commemoration in Montgomery, Alabama.

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## MONTGOMERY'S MUSEUMS & MONUMENTS:

Places where narratives about slavery and racial violence uphold myths about white superiority.

## EQUAL JUSTICE INITIATIVE:

An organisation developing radical spaces to counter these discourses: a monument to lynching, and a museum mapping the legacies of slavery.

## PROJECT AIMS & METHODS:

Explore the narratives represented in Montgomery's public spaces of commemoration and heritage by analysing their visual, textual and spatial elements.

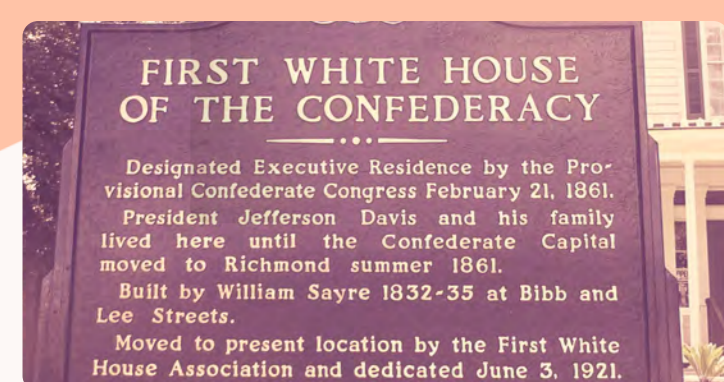
*What narratives around race are present? Whose perspectives are dominant? How do these stories differ to the EJI's work? What is highlighted, and what or who is made invisible?*

Investigate how space is used to uphold or challenge systemic racism through fieldwork, and semi-structured interviews with local residents.

*How is the landscape of Montgomery shaped physically and symbolically by racial oppression? How do its spaces work to reproduce racial inequality?*

More broadly, look at the question of what role monuments and museums can play in social justice movements.

## CONCLUSIONS:



Montgomery is a majority black city, but its public spaces are organised around the values and mentalities of white people.

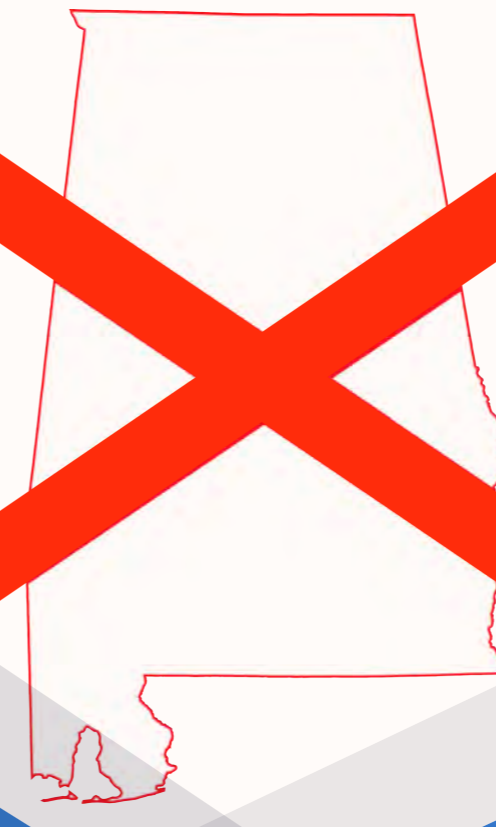
The antebellum period and the Confederacy is commemorated, yet the trauma inflicted on black lives as a result of this are erased.

Many white respondents resist building public monuments to victims of lynching and enslavement.

But for black respondents, these projects are a powerful symbol of accountability for generations of racial terror and oppression perpetrated by white people.

The EJI presents a narrative which doesn't prioritise white comfort:

"It's going to make a lot of people uncomfortable. And from what I know about the majority of people, specifically white people, they don't like being uncomfortable. And I think personally it's going to be a great thing" (Lamar, 2017)



"When I see it, it makes me angry, because I feel like there is so much hatred disguised as heritage in the South" (Ronice, 2017)

"I would take a lot of my white friends, not for them to find it interesting, but for them to truly know." (Lamar, 2017)

SEE THAT'S A DIFFERENT KIND OF JUSTICE



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