Beginning this fall, the Metropolitan Center for Research on Equity and the Transformation of Schools (Metro Center) will be holding a monthly reading group for staff to share perspectives and understandings around seminal texts that inform our work. This fall the reading group’s inquiry focus will be: **What informs school resistance to the school-to-prison pipeline?**

Our reading group will use a process for close reading the text in three different ways:

1. Reading *within* the text  
   What is the essential argument? What is the author trying to say? How do we know? Where is the evidence in the text?

2. Reading *around* the text  
   In what context was this text written? To what other text is this speaking? Against what other text is this speaking? How does the identity of the author matter?

3. Reading *against* the text  
   How might we disagree with the author? How and where do those disagreements exist? What holes exist in the argument? How do these holes lead to possibilities? What questions can we ask based on what is not here?

*Check our website and @metronyu during the fall semester for reflections on our reading group conversations!*

The following are the texts selected for discussion. Several suggested complementary readings are also included for each date.

**Oct. 2: Between the World and Me by: Ta-Nehisi Coates**

*Suggested complementary readings:*

The Making of Ferguson: Public Policies at the Roots of Its Troubles by Richard Rothstein  


Segregation Now: Investigating America’s Racial Divide  
[http://www.propublica.org/series/segregation-now](http://www.propublica.org/series/segregation-now)

**Nov. 6: Just Mercy by Bryan Stevenson**

*Suggested complementary readings:*

I’m a Public Defender. It’s impossible for me to do a good job representing my clients. by Tina Peng  

This Man Sat in Jail for 110 Days- After He Already Did His Time by Marc Bookman (2015)  
Putting Fewer Innocents Behind Bars by Tina Rosenberg (2015)
http://opinionator.blogs.nytimes.com/2015/07/03/putting-fewer-innocents-behind-bars/

Dec. 4: The New Jim Crow by Michelle Alexander
Suggested complementary readings:
The Black Family in the Age of Mass Incarceration by Ta-Nehisi Coates (2015)

Before the Law by Jennifer Gonnerman (2014)
http://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2014/10/06/before-the-law

The Case for Reparations by Ta-Nehisi Coates (2014)
http://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2014/06/the-case-for-reparations/361631/

Segregation as Splitting, Segregation as Joining: Schools, Housing and the Many Modes of Jim Crow by Andrew Highsmith and Ansley Erikson (2015)