

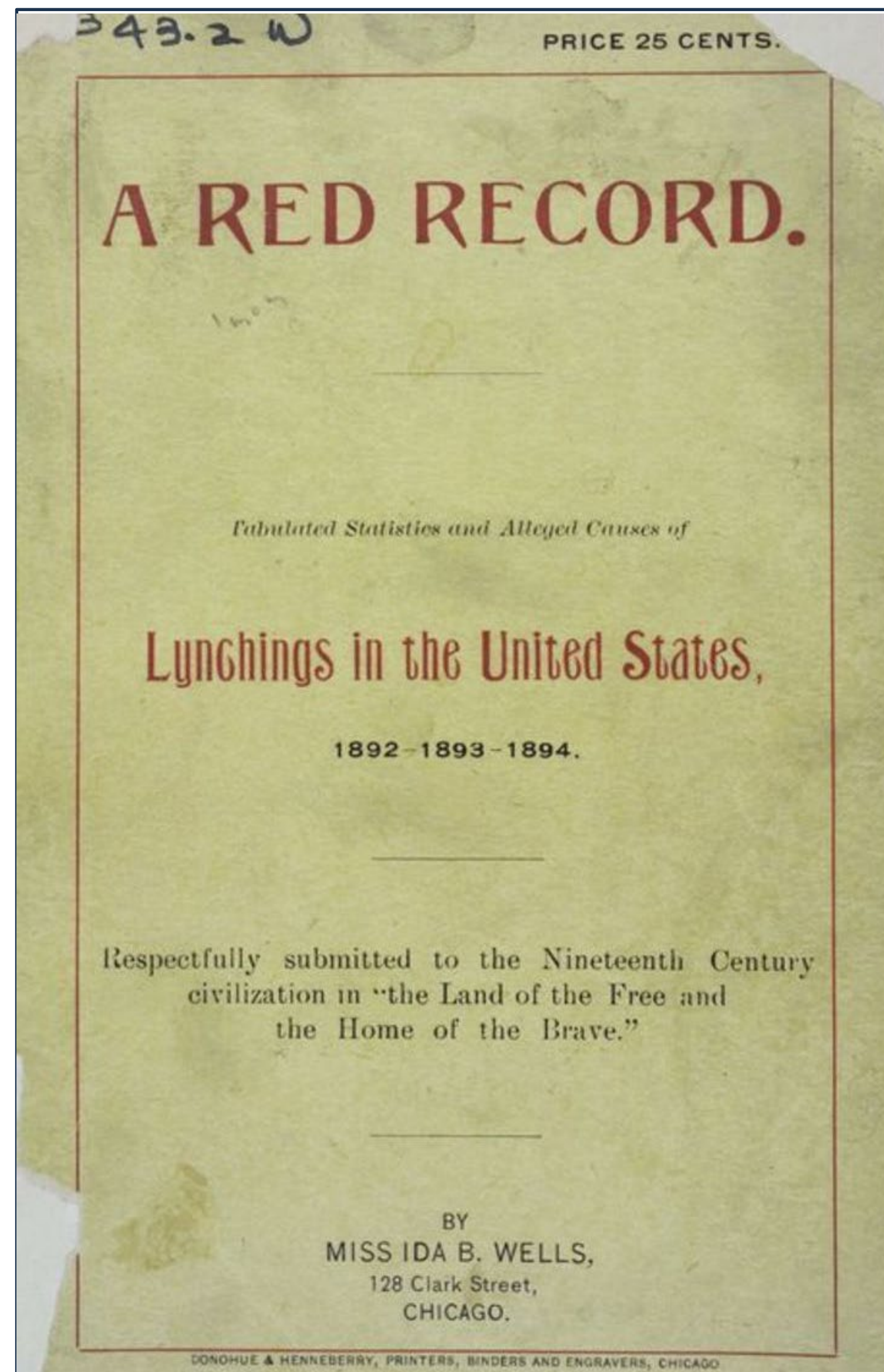


Representations of Racialized Violence in Late 19th & Early 20th Century African American Literature

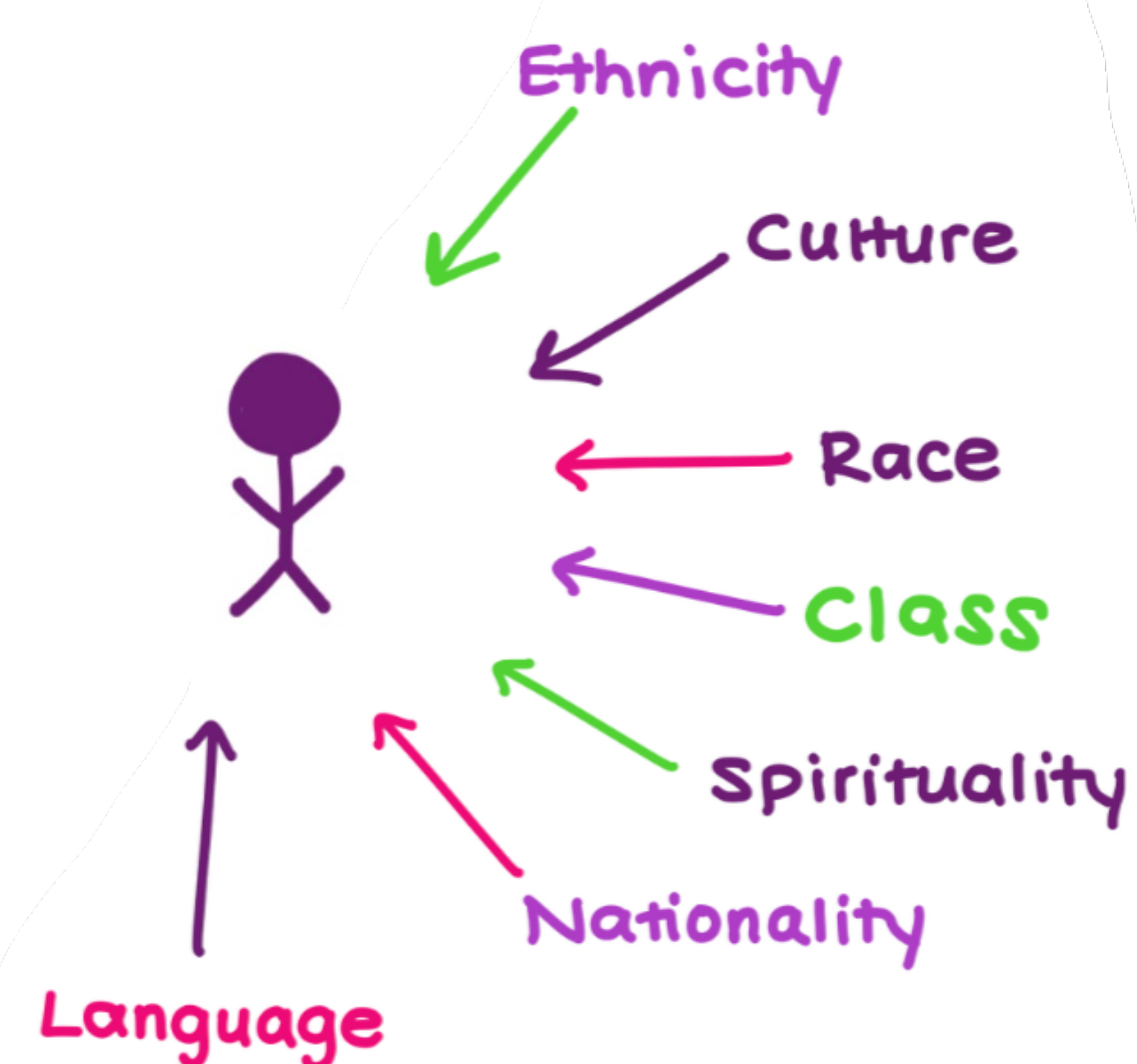
Raven Maxwell, English – Literature Studies

Mentor: Dr. Rachal Burton

12th Annual Research, Scholarship & Creative Activities Conference - 2024



Ida B. Wells' *A Red Record* (1895) focuses on the lynching of Black Americans in the post-Civil War era

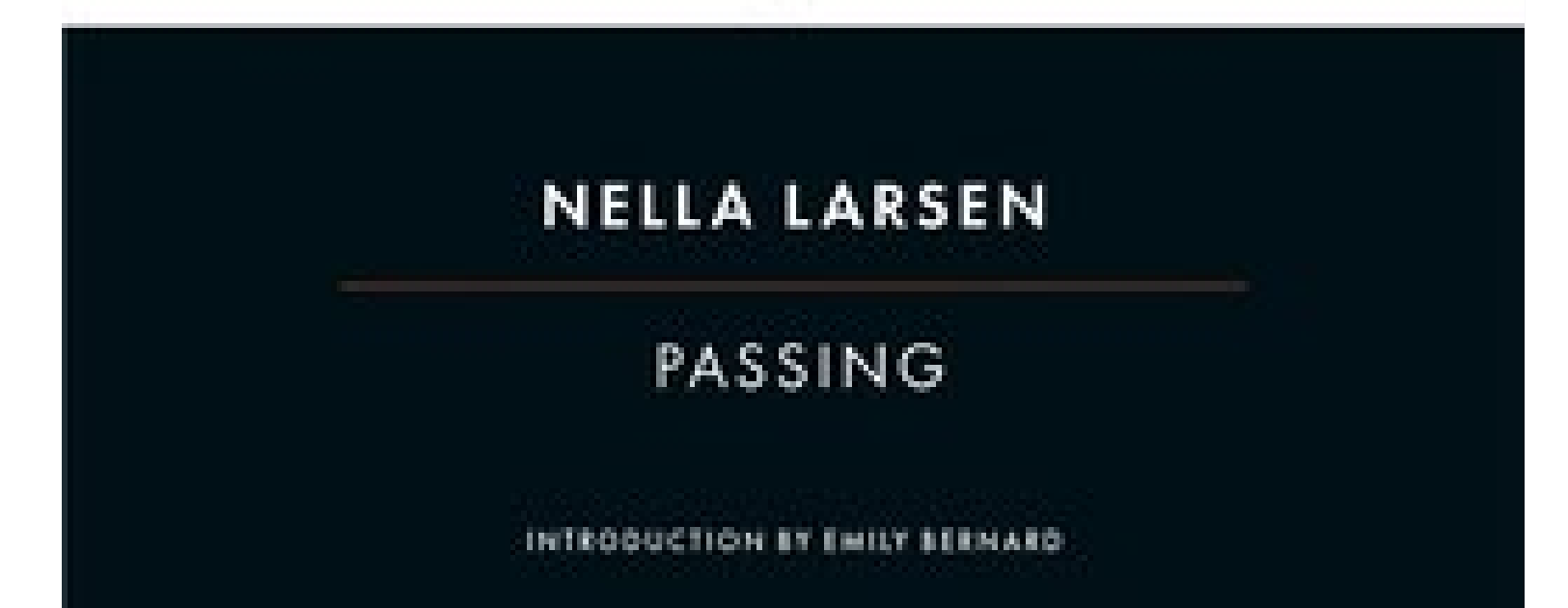
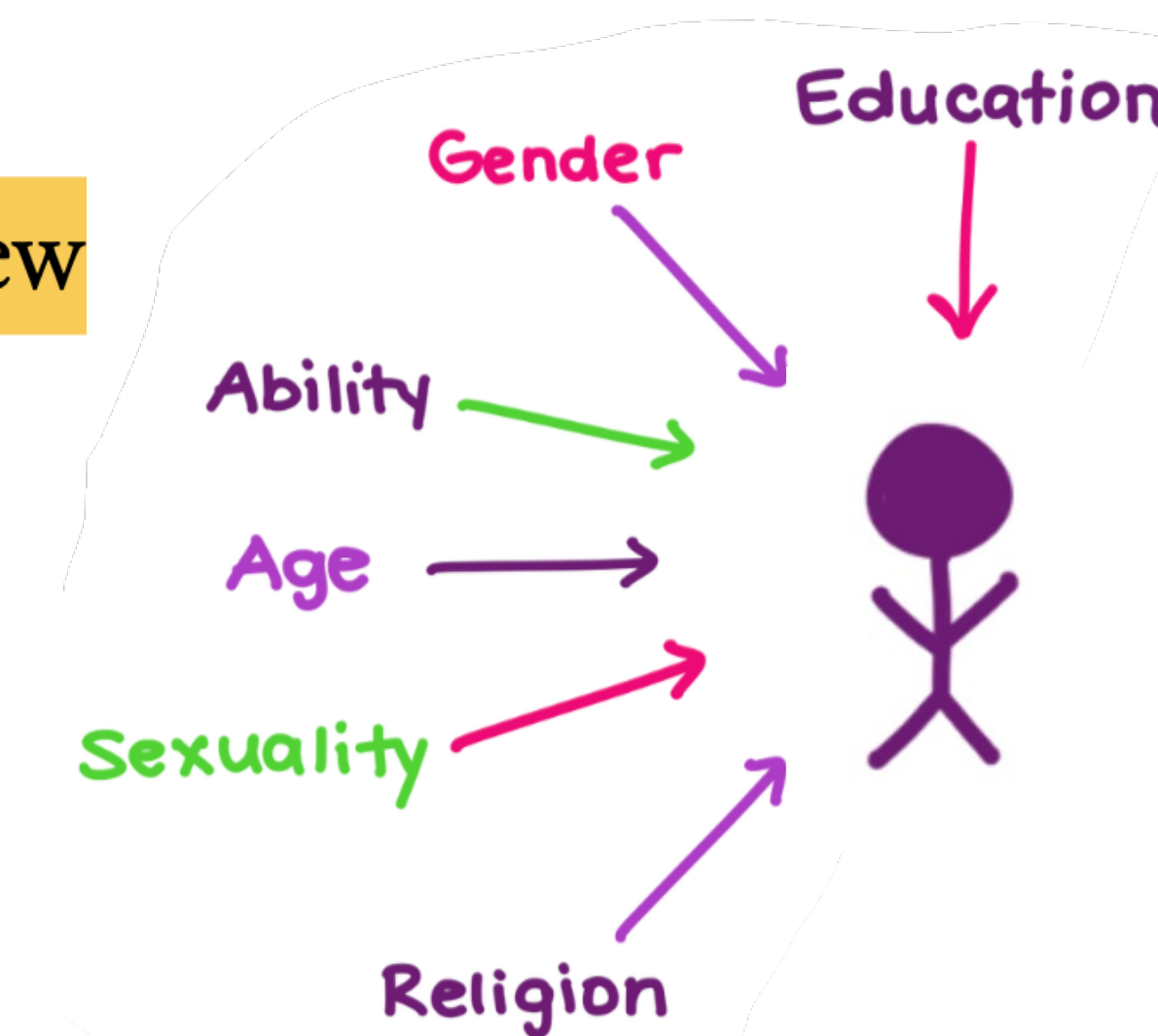


The Lynching

BY CLAUDE MCKAY

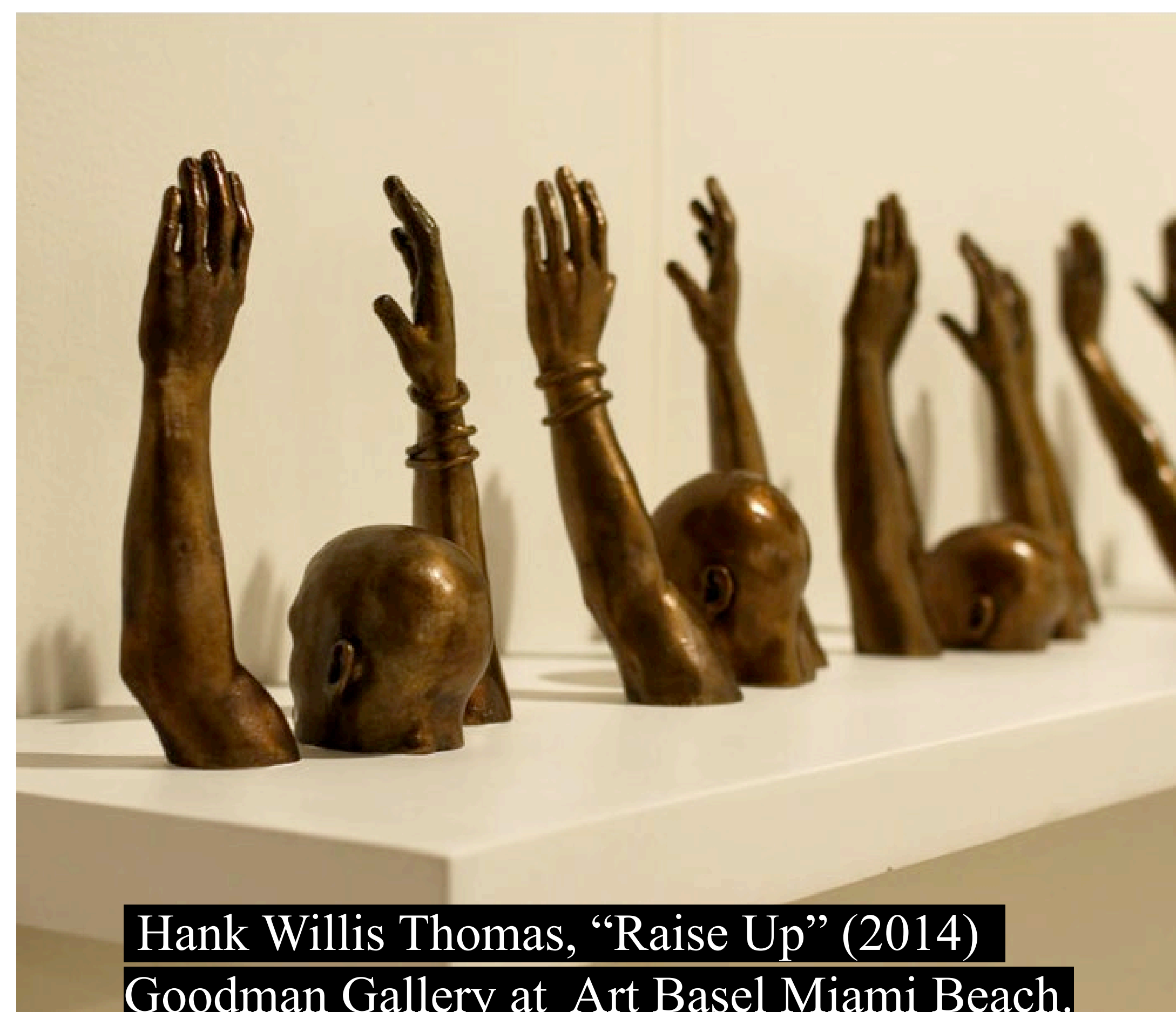
His spirit in smoke ascended to high heaven.
His father, by the cruelest way of pain,
Had bidden him to his bosom once again;
The awful sin remained still unforgiven.
All night a bright and solitary star
(Perchance the one that ever guided him,
Yet gave him up at last to Fate's wild whim)
Hung pitifully o'er the swinging char.
Day dawned, and soon the mixed crowds came to view
The ghastly body swaying in the sun:
The women thronged to look, but never a one
Showed sorrow in her eyes of steely blue;
And little lads, lynchers that were to be,
Danced round the dreadful thing in fiendish glee.

Claude McKay's poem and Nella Larsen's novel point towards the horizon as the Harlem Renaissance authors employ literature as a medium to call for change

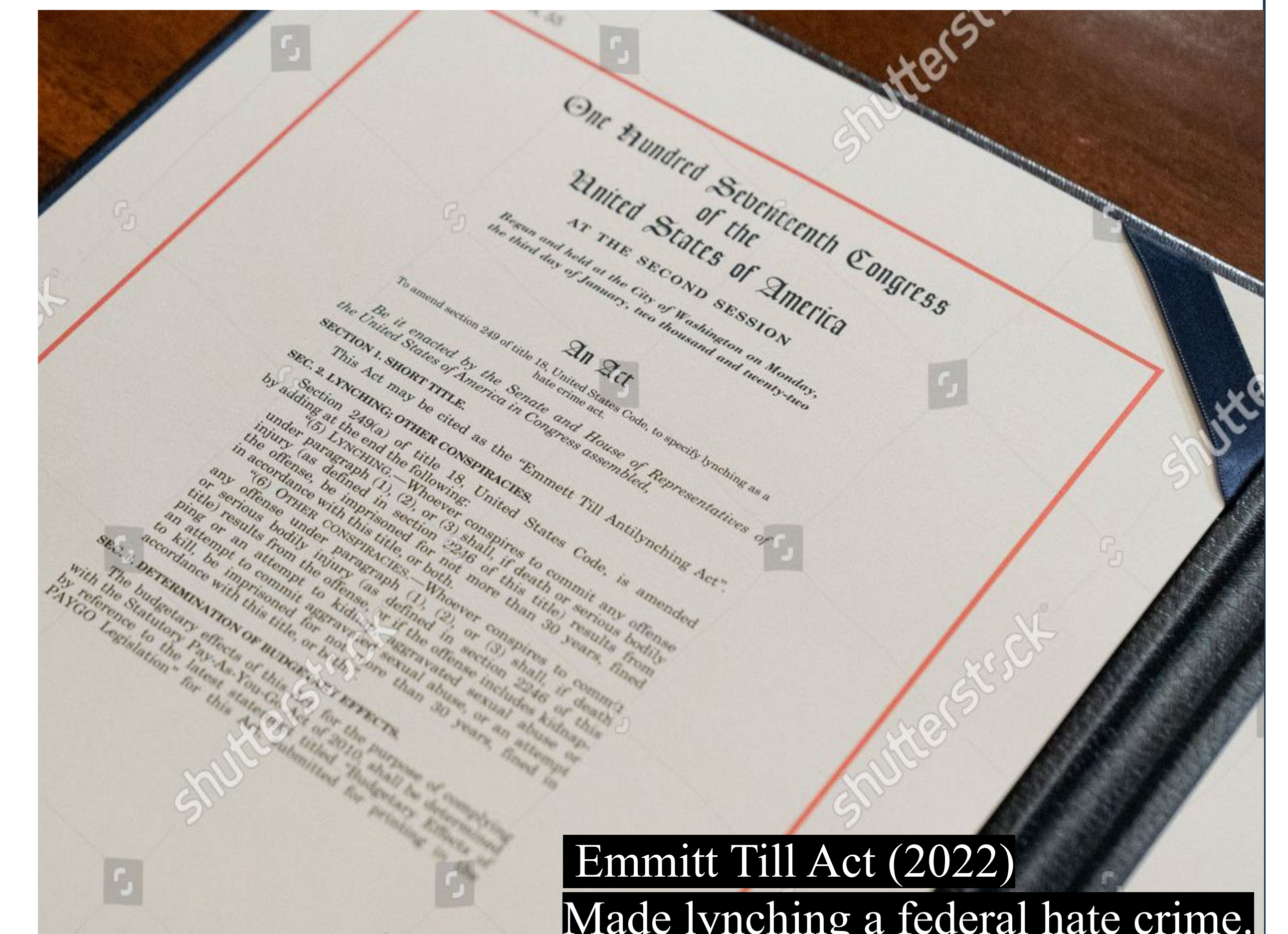


Scott, Jennifer *The Impossible*, 2000.

Modern analyses of late 19th and early 20th century texts demonstrate how an understanding of diverse and intersectional narratives catalyze change



Hank Willis Thomas, "Raise Up" (2014)
Goodman Gallery at Art Basel Miami Beach.



Emmett Till Act (2022)
Made lynching a federal hate crime.