

Marcus Fleming  
Dark Matters  
Response 2

The inside of a human body is [not colorful](#). It's a dark, plum colored cavity. Bodies are not lit from the inside-out. There are no lamps in your lungs. No light switches in your intestines. No chandeliers hanging inside your skull. The body is a damp, dark, sweatshop with only one intention: to keep this *shit* going.

White folks have spend a lot of time simultaneously engrossed and grossed out by the gooey shitstorm of our bodies. [White people have always been ashamed of our white bodies](#). This shame runs deep. And, it's a reiterative shame. A shame we don't deal with. A shame that we, instead, take out on other bodies through acts of emotional and physical violence.

For thousands of years we practiced relieving our shame by torturing each other. During the "Dark" Ages, my European ancestors routinely tortured each w/ [torture "devices"](#), which made it possible to torture abject bodies without the use of weapons or blows by hand. Mass executions during this time were common and well attended. Seeing dead and/or eviscerated bodies became a spectacle.

And, alas, after all of the torture we still felt guilty as hell. So, white people began to develop more cerebral ways of using torture to bury our corporal shame. In the early 1700's white people invented the ideas of racism and capitalism to control thousands of bodies through institutionalized discriminative governance, mass slavery, and free markets. These inventions created the notion of "whiteness", which united all of the European people who had spent thousands of years [cutting out](#) and examining each others' guts. It was at this point that "white people" started to collaborate to brutalize, [dissect](#), and control non-white people, primarily black bodies.

The creation of the computer follows a similar pattern. White male engineers quickly rejected the gooey guts of the computer. They felt ashamed of their feeble machines. They saw the tangled, darkness of the computer as a metaphor for the tangled, darkness of the inside of their fragile, wooly bodies. They did whatever they could to cover up the anatomy of the machine. They covered them with sheet metal, hid them from the public eye, commanded women to program them, and eventually developed white GUIs and software to both shield and control users. As American writes, "Blackness has, so to say, formed the ground for white, with black gooey being antithetical to the values of the white screen." The necessary black insides of the machine have been concealed in favor of the white light of a screen.

Fact: the only way to shed light inside a human or mechanical body is to wound it. Nobody glows from the inside. The glowing white light of our screens, the perceived whiteness of skin, and the gloss of capitalism work to cover up the morbid realities of our bodies, our past, and of the computers that now seek to remove us even further away from our bodies *and* all the shameful things white people do. Dismantling white male fragility involves "taking apart the machine"; i.e. demanding that fragile men take apart themselves piece-by-piece-by-piece.