Abstract: It is more than fifty years since Sutherland famously added white collar crime to public sociology, radically reordering discourse about crime. It is time to do the same with Raphael Lemkin’s concept of genocide. This talk proposes a “critical collective framing” perspective that begins by focusing on the state origins of race-based ideology in the mobilization and dehumanization leading to genocide. This transformative dynamic is elaborated by identifying racially driven macro-micro-macro level processes, which are theoretically underdeveloped and contested in many settings. These generic processes can be seen in data from an unprecedented survey of refugees fleeing the ongoing genocide in Darfur. The Sudanese government has engaged in crisis framing that produced a dehumanizing collective process. Sudanese forces joined with Janjaweed militia to attack black African settlements; they aggregated and concentrated racial epithets in a collective process of dehumanization and organized terror; and they thereby amplified the severity of genocidal victimization, the lethal and lasting scar of the genocidal state. These findings question primordial and counter-insurgency explanations, while supporting aspects of the instrumental, population-resource, constructionist and cognitive perspectives. (Paper available at www.watsoninstitute.org/blss)

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Friday, April 11, 12:00-1:30 pm, The Brown Faculty Club
(Lunch provided with RSVP to Ellen_White@brown.edu or (401) 863-7916)