



## Dr. Frances Cress Welsing Dead at 80

The scholar and author of *The Isis Papers* has died of reported complications from a stroke.

BY: ANGELA BRONNER HELM

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*Dr. Frances Cress Welsing receives the Fannie Lou Hamer Community Award during 10th Annual National Black L.U.V. Festival in Washington D.C., Sept. 21, 2008.*

ELVERT XAVIER BARNES PHOTOGRAPHY

Renowned black psychiatrist Dr. Frances Cress Welsing, author of the seminal 1991 work, *The Isis (Yssis) Papers: The Keys To The Colors* (Third World Press) has died. She was 80 years old.

“Media Assassin” Harry Allen reports via Twitter that Dr. Welsing died at 5:30 a.m. Saturday morning from a stroke she suffered earlier in the week.

Dr. Welsing was born on March 18, 1935, in Chicago. Both her father and grandfather were medical doctors, and her mother was a teacher. She received her bachelor’s degree from Antioch College, and her M.D. from the Howard University College of Medicine. In 1974, Dr. Welsing became famous for her paper, the “*Cress Theory of Color-Confrontation*” which she published while an assistant professor of pediatrics at Howard’s medical school.

According to Welsing, the work caused such a stir that her tenure at the university was not renewed in 1975. Dr. Welsing then spent more than 20 years as a staff physician for the Department of Human Services in Washington, D.C., and was a specialist in both child and general psychiatry, gaining particular acclaim for her work with young people. Additionally, she was a celebrated scholar who studied the origins of white supremacy from a psychological and biological perspective, and was a proponent of the “Melanin Theory,” which espouses black superiority due to a higher concentration of melanin in people of African descent.

As a psychiatrist, Welsing used Freudian symbolism to explain white supremacy, including the interpretation of guns, money, the cross and gold. She has faced some controversy regarding her stance on homosexuality, which she said was imposed on black men by whites who wanted to reduce the African population.

Dr. Welsing is perhaps best known for her 1991 book, *The Isis Papers*, which reportedly came about after 20 years of research and analysis from her private practice. It is considered required reading for those interested in the psychological origins and manifestations of white supremacy.

Many prominent Afro-centrists including Chuck D, Roland Martin and others took to social media on Saturday morning to express their grief under the hashtag #FrancesCressWelsing.