Standing in Protest against Racism, Colorism, and Racial Divides

Manijeh Daneshpour

Systemwide Director & Distinguished Professor of Marriage and Family Therapy

Alliant International University

Race and Colonialism

- Race may be a social construction without biological validity, yet it is real and powerful enough to alter the fundamental shape of all our lives.
- The social understandings and the implications of race change over time, precisely because race in our society is a social construct that serves political ends.
- Hundreds of years of colonialism, being used as servants and enslaved by white colonizers, instilled beliefs of darker skin being inferior.

Parallel Experiences in Communities of Color

- While the experiences of African Americans, Native Americans and immigrants of color have differed significantly, there are a number of parallels in experiences that stem from the <u>racialization of citizenship, immigrant</u> <u>status, labor, and criminalization</u>.
- One clear manifestation is today's <u>criminalization of those</u> who resist oppressive conditions.







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PROUD

FEMINIST

25 YEARS



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History of Racial Divide-Model Minority

- After WWII ends, and the Cold War begins, the fear of communism is perpetuated as the U.S. battles with the Soviet Union to be the next global superpower.
- America exposes Soviet Union issues with poverty, and the Soviet Union expose white supremacy in the States stating: "How could this country be a world leader when it can't even treat its citizens equally?"
- This was especially important because communism began to spread in Asia, and the U.S. used any resource to contain it. Highlighting U.S. anti-Asian sentiment left Asian countries hesitant to work with the States.

History of Racial Divide

- The U.S. was worried that they wouldn't be able to contain communism in Asia, quickly removed all legislation that prevents Asian immigration with the <u>Immigration and Nationality Act of</u> <u>1952</u>.
- The U.S. opens its doors for Asian immigrants. Under this act, the federal government mandated that 50% of the quotas for Asian countries were for highly qualified professionals such as college professors or scientists.
- Historians later called this the "brain drain." Asian citizens leave their countries to work in the U.S. thus leaving their home countries with no one in highly qualified positions.

History of Racial Solidarity

- After the Civil Rights Movement, many new organizations that critiqued America's imperialistic ways began to arise.
- The most important is the Third World Liberation Front which was a collection of ethnic student groups consisting of the <u>Black</u> <u>Student Union</u>, the <u>Philipino American Collegiate Endeavor</u>, the <u>Asian American Political Alliance</u>, the <u>Latin American Students</u> <u>Organization</u>, and many more.
- The Third World Liberation Front, adopting similar principles of the Black Panther Party and Black Power Movement, began to organize by protesting the Vietnam War.

History of Racial Solidarity

- Black American leaders took out a full ad page in 1978 calling for the acceptance of Indochinese immigrants.
- The multicultural Third World Liberation Front worked together to fight discriminatory college admissions processes, and the famous "Yellow Peril Supports Black Power" poster was popularized in the 1960s.



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_____ International Rescue Committee 355 Park Avenue South, New York, N.Y. 10016

Fredrick Allen Hampton (August 30, 1948 – December 4, 1969)



- An American activist and <u>revolutionary socialist</u>. He came to prominence in <u>Chicago</u> as chairman of the <u>Illinois</u> chapter of the <u>Black</u> <u>Panther Party</u>.
- In this capacity, he founded the <u>Rainbow Coalition</u>, a prominent <u>multicultural</u> political organization that initially included the <u>Black</u> <u>Panthers</u>, <u>Young Patriots</u> and the <u>Young Lords</u>, and an alliance among major <u>Chicago street gangs</u> to help them end infighting and work for social change.

Ethics of Care

- The United States is a nation of people traumatized by centuries of pain as the victims and perpetrators of forced migration, forced extraction, and forced exclusion.
- Our collective pain is one of the roots causes of violence in our society.

Significance of Relationality

- Epistemologies that presuppose autonomy make relationality invisible.
- Recognizing relationality means acknowledging ontological interdependence, which transforms how we think of communicating across and through differences.
- Relationality is crucial to antiracist and feminist struggle

Multicultural Solution: Ethic of Care

- We need to acknowledge the complex bio-social relation between genetic inheritance and phenotype, culture, and history that gives rise to racial identity and meaning.
- We have to undertake a sociohistorical revision of our ways of thinking and intervening, which is necessary to prevent it from displacing the causes for problems onto the people who suffer from them.

White Awareness: Handbook for Anti-Racism Training (Judith Katz, 1978)

- White Awareness attributes widespread responsibility for racism to whites.
- White guilt fixations is not helpful, because it is self-indulgent.
- Using people of color to reeducate whites is useless because whites focus on getting acceptance and forgiveness from nonwhite educators.
- Racism causes whites to suffer; it cripples their intellectual and psychological development and locks them "in a psychological prison that victimizes and oppresses them every day of their lives." White Awareness: Handbook for Anti-Racism Training.

How Can We Stand Together?

- Recognize and check your privilege
- Understand your oppression
- Do things differently
- Educate yourself
- White people, educate your white friends
- Understand intent versus impact-You can have both a good intent and a negative impact.
- Collaborate and connect-Our work is multi-layered: each of us must work individually (e.g. checking privilege), intra-racially (e.g. educating fellow white folks as a white person), and inter-/multi-racially (e.g. working with people across racial lines).

Black Lives Matter

- We are witnessing a historical movement and we will continue to stand in protest against racism, colorism, and racial divides.
- It's moved many to start challenging traditional thinking and recognize the role other <u>minorities hold in dismantling systemic and</u> <u>cultural racism</u> and realize that our differences don't have to divide.
- Black voices are the most important in this discussion but taking a step toward changing our own cultural biases can change the future for all.
- Standing together is standing stronger.

Be strong enough to stand alone, be yourself enough to stand apart, but be wise enough to stand together when the time comes.