



THANKS TO CAPINCROUSE



With over 50 years of experience serving churches and nonprofit organizations, we provide tailored strategies to help your organization thrive in a changing world.



DEI DONE RIGHT: CHRISTIAN MISSIONS WITHOUT CRITICAL THEORY

Dr. Neil Shenvi

Missio Nexus

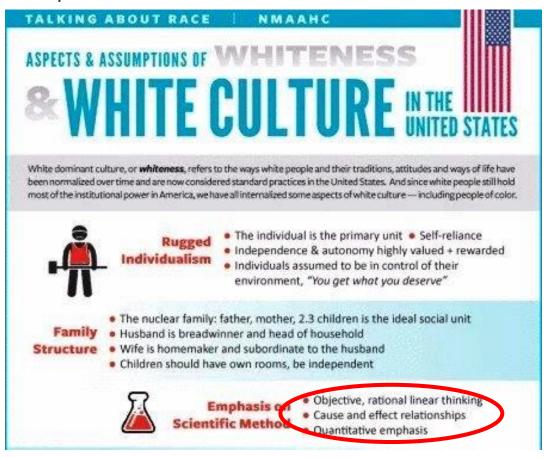
Sept. 12-14, 2024

"Diversity, Equity and Inclusion"

- What's going on in our culture?"
 - "The Great Awokening"
 - Connection to "DEI"
- What is critical theory?
- DEI Done Wrong
- Reclaiming Christianity community
- A way forward

Smithsonian NMAAHC

"Whiteness and white racialized identity refer to the way that white people, their customs, culture, and beliefs operate as the standard by which all other groups of are compared."



Black Lives Matter

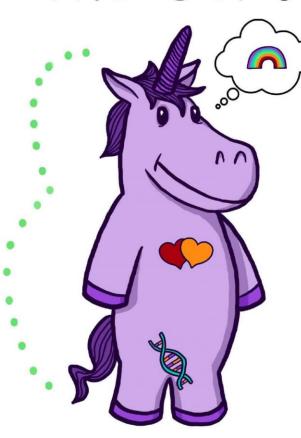
"We are self-reflexive and do the work required to dismantle cisgender privilege and uplift Black trans folk, especially Black trans women who continue to be disproportionately impacted by trans-antagonistic violence...

We foster a queer-affirming network. When we gather, we do so with the intention of freeing ourselves from the tight grip of heteronormative thinking, or rather, the belief that all in the world are heterosexual (unless s/he or they disclose otherwise)."



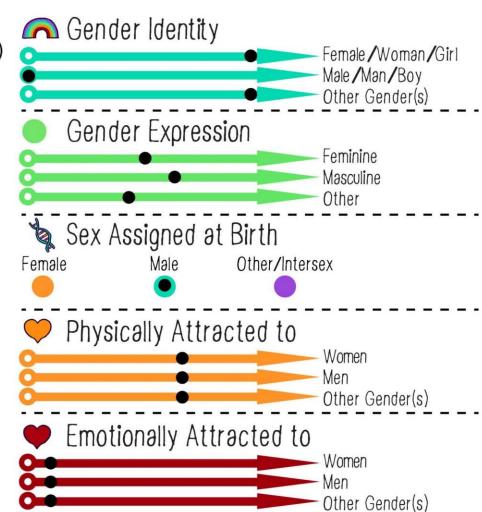
The Gender Unicorn





To learn more, go to: www.transstudent.org/gender

Design by Landyn Pan and Anna Moore



Queers for Palestine







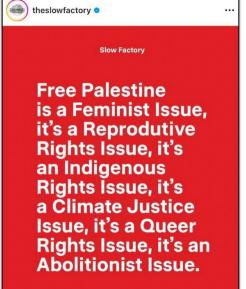






As the world is faced with deep questions about self-determination, as we all desire and pray for a world of peace,, we must stand unwaveringly on the side of the oppressed. When a people have been subject to decades of apartheid and unimaginable violence, their resistance must not be condemned, but understood as a desperate act of self-defense.

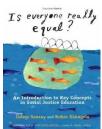


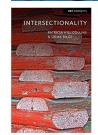


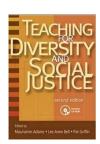
Connection to DEI

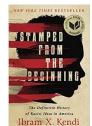
- Mauriane Adams
 - Readings for Diversity and Social Justice
 - Teaching for Diversity and Social Justice
- Robin DiAngelo
 - White Fragility
 - What Does it Meant to Be White?
 - Is Everybody Really Equal?
- Ibram X. Kendi
 - Stamped from the Beginning
 - How To Be An Antiracist
- Patricia Hill Collins
 - Race, Class, and Gender
 - Intersectionality
 - Intersectionality as Critical Social Theory
- bell hooks
 - Feminism is for Everybody
 - Teaching to Transgress
- Ijeoma Oluo
 - So You Want To Talk About Race?
- Layla Saad
 - Me And White Supremacy





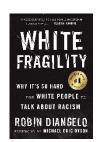


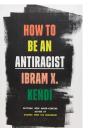


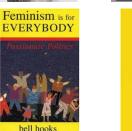


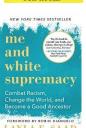




















Connection to DEI: Walmart

2. Racism is defined as social and institutional power combined with race prejudice. It is a system of advantage for those considered white, and of oppression for those who are not considered white. It is a white supremacy system supported by an all-class collaboration called "white" created to end cross racial labor solidarity.

XI. Internalized racial oppression

- Internalized racial inferiority among people of color is manifested in multiple ways that include, but are not limited to, internalized negative messages about self and other people of color, distancing, exaggerated visibility, and protection of white people.
- "White supremacy culture" includes "defensiveness"
 "quantity over quality" "worship of the written word"
 "paternalism" "binary (either/or) thinking"
 "powerhoarding" "individualism" "objectivity" (pp. 44-52)

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Connection to DEI: AT&T



White Fragility: Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk About Rac-

ism by Robin DiAngelo

Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Re

White Awake: An Honest Look at Wh Hill

Stamped from the Beginning: The D

America by Ibram X. Kendi

Is COVID-19 Helping Fight Racism?

Korn Ferry's Andrés Tapia says the pandemic, as horrible as it has been, may be creating conditions that make people care more about racism.

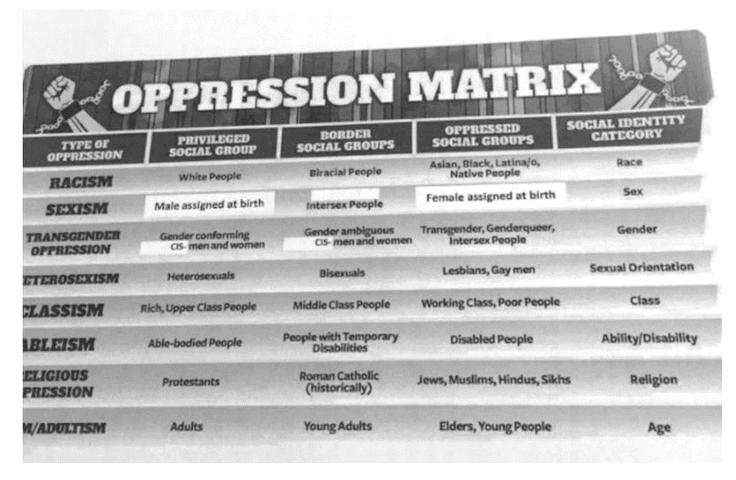
Andrés Tapia is Korn Ferry's global diversity and inclusion strategist.

LISTEN

Breaking Green Ceilings Podcast amplifying the voices of environmentalists from historically underrepresented communities including Disabled, Queer, Trans, Black, Indigenous, People of Color and accomplices (episodes 1 hour)

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Connection to DEI: Middle School teacher training program

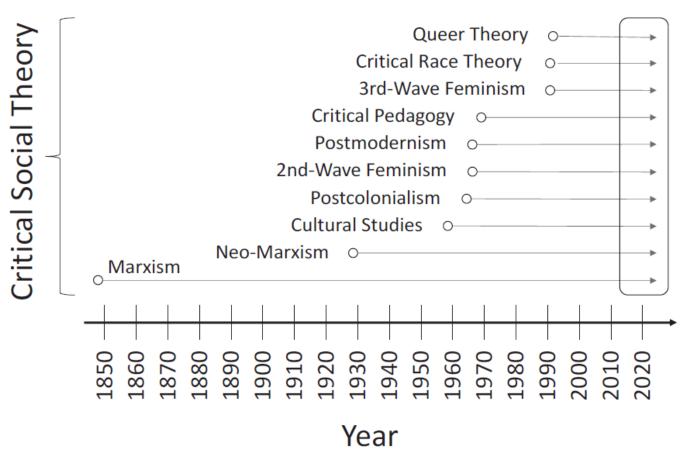


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- What's going on in our culture?
- What is critical theory?
 - History
 - Premise 1: Social binary
 - Premise 2: Oppression through ideology
 - Premise 3: Lived experience
 - Premise 4: Social justice
 - DEI Positives
- DEI Done Wrong
- Reclaiming Christianity community
- A way forward

The timeline of critical theory

Contemporary Critical Theory



Shenvi and Sawyer, Critical Dilemma, p. 64

The taxonomy of critical theory

"critical theory" = critical social theories







Neo-Marxism

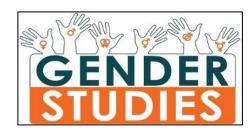
"Critical Theory" = Frankfurt School













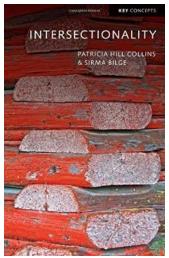
The central premises of contemporary critical theory

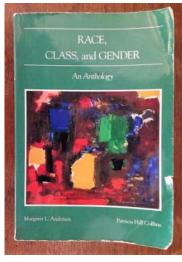
Premise I: Social binary

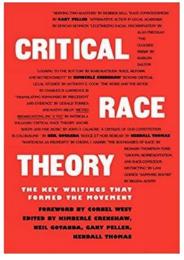
Premise II: Oppression through ideology

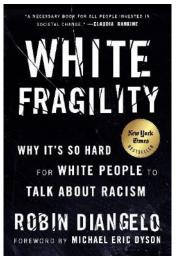
Premise III: Lived experience

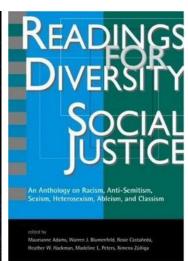
Premise IV: Social justice











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Idea #1: Society is divided into oppressed and oppressor groups

"For every social group, there is an opposite group... the primary groups that we name here are: race, class, gender, sexuality, ability status/exceptionality, religion, and nationality"

"Oppression describes a set of policies, practices, traditions, norms, definitions, and explanations (discourses), which function to systematically exploit one social group to the benefit of another social group. The group that benefits from this exploitation is termed the dominant (or agent) group, and the group that is exploited is termed the minoritized (or target) group.... Sexism, racism, classism, ableism, and heterosexism are specific forms of oppression" — Sensoy and DiAngelo, Is Everyone Really Equal? p. 44, 61





Premise #1: Society is divided into oppressed and oppressor groups

4		Is Everyone Really Equal?
igure 5.1. Group Identities Across I	Relations of Power	The state of the s
Minoritized/Target Group	Oppression	Dominant/ Agent Group
Peoples of Color	Racism	White
Poor		
Working Class	Classism	Owning Class
Middle Class		
Women; Transgender; Genderqueer	Sexism	(cis)Men
Gays; Lesbians; Bisexuals; Two Spirit	Heterosexism	Heterosexuals
Muslims; Buddhists; Jews; Hindus; and other non-Christian groups	Religious Oppression Anti-Semitism	Christians
People with Disabilities	Ableism	Able-bodied
Immigrants (perceived)	Nationalism	Citizens (perceived)
Indigenous Peoples	Colonialism	White Settlers

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Premise #2: Oppression occurs through hegemonic power

"Hegemony refers to the control of the ideology of society. The dominant group maintains power by imposing their ideology on everyone" - Sensoy and DiAngelo, Is Everyone Really Equal? p. 73

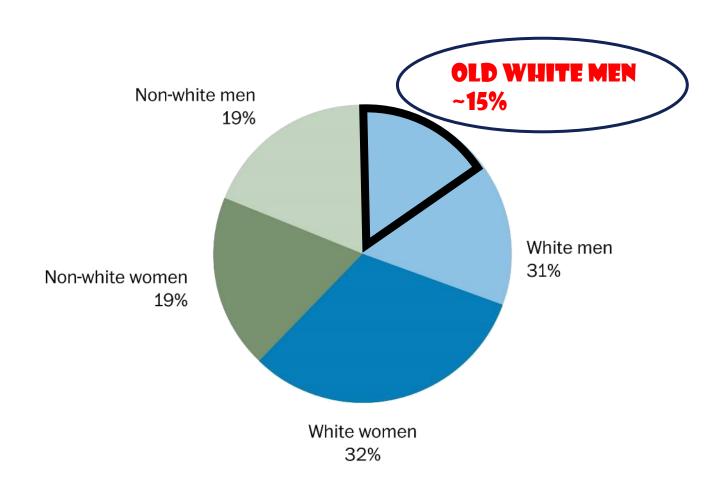




"oppression also traditionally carries a strong connotation of conquest and colonial domination... New left social movements of the 1960s and 1970s, however, shifted the meaning of the concept of oppression. In its new usage, oppression designates the disadvantage and injustice some people suffer not because a tyrannical power coerces them, but because of the everyday practices of a well-intentioned liberal society... Oppression in this sense is structural, rather than the result of a few people's choices or policies. Its causes are embedded in unquestioned norms, habits, and symbols." – Iris Young, "Five Faces of Oppression," Readings for Diversity and Social Justice, p. 36



Premise #2: Oppression occurs through hegemonic power



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Premise #3: 'Lived experience' gives oppressed groups privileged access to truth

"The idea that objectivity is best reached only through rational thought is a specifically Western and masculine way of thinking – one that we will challenge throughout this book." – Margaret L. Andersen and Patricia Hill Collins, "Reconstructing Knowledge," in Anderson and Collins, Race, Class, and Gender, p. 4-5





Premise #3: 'Lived experience' gives oppressed groups privileged access to truth

Oppression and epistemology:



Privilege



Internalized oppression





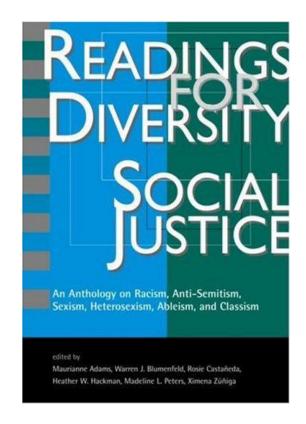
<u>Liberatory consciousness</u>

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Premise #4: Social justice demands the liberation of oppressed groups

Definition of social justice:

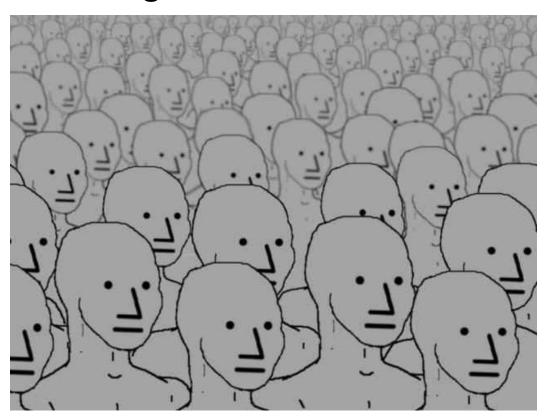
"Prior to celebrating diversity, we must first eliminate intolerance. No matter what form it takes or who does it, we must all take action to stop intolerance when it happens. Working towards a celebration of diversity implies working for social justice – the elimination of all forms of social oppression... Social injustice takes many forms. It can be injustice based on a person's gender, race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, physical or mental ability, or economic class." – Mary McClintock, "How to Interrupt Oppressive Behavior," Readings for Diversity and Social Justice, p. 483



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- Some kinds of institutional diversity are good and should be encouraged
- Formal equality does not guarantee equality of opportunity
- Unequal treatment is *sometimes* fair
- Institutional culture can *sometimes* unfairly/unintentionally exclude or marginalize

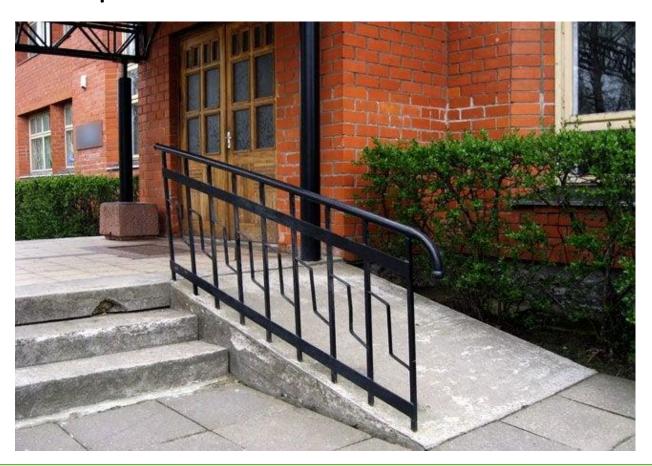
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Matrix of Oppression

Social Identity Categories	Privileged Social Groups	Border Social Groups	Targeted Social Groups	Ism
Race	White People	Biracial People (White/Latino, Black, Asian)	Asian, Black, Latino, Native People	Racism
Sex	Bio Men	Transsexual, Intersex People	Bio Women	Sexism
Gender	Gender Conforming Bio Men And Women	Gender Ambiguous Bio Men and Women	Transgender, Genderqueer, Intersex People	Transgender Oppression
Sexual Orientation	Heterosexual People	Bisexual People	Lesbians, Gay Men	Heterosexism
Class	Rich, Upper Class People	Middle Class People	Working Class, Poor People	Classism
Ability/Disability	Temporarily Abled- Bodied People	People with Temporary Disabilities	People with Disabilities	Ableism
Religion	Protestants	Roman Catholic (historically)	Jews, Muslims, Hindus	Religious Oppression
Age	Adults	Young Adults	Elders, Young People	Ageism/Adultism

"We do not use traditional or popular meanings of oppression (such as a ruler's tyrannical rule or a nation's conquest and colonial domination of other peoples)... Oppression is 'structural' and 'systemic,' and usually operates under the radar because it is part of an unequal society's 'unquestioned norms, habits, and symbols'; its 'normal processes of everyday life'; and its 'assumptions underlying institutional rules and the collective consequences of following those rules'" — Adams et al. *Teaching for Diversity and Social Justice*, 247

"oppression is manifested through racism, white privilege, and immigrant status; sexism, heterosexism, and transgender experiences; religious oppression and antisemitism; and classism, ableism, and ageism/adultism...eradicating oppression ultimately requires struggle against all its forms." ibid, 4-5



"Antiracist policies cannot eliminate class racism without anticapitalism policies. Anticapitalism cannot eliminate class racism without antiracism."

"To truly be antiracist is to be feminist.

To truly be feminist is to be antiracist"

"We cannot be antiracist if we are homophobic or transphobic... To be queer antiracist is to understand the privileges of my cisgender, of my masculinity, of my heterosexuality, of their intersections" - Kendi



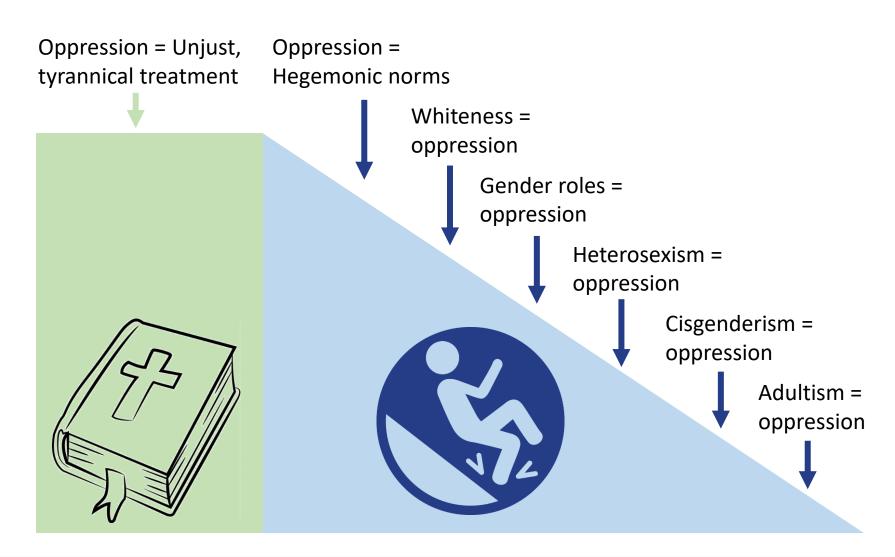
Ibram X. Kendi, How to Be An Antiracist, p. 159 189, 197

"People are just beginning to have a glimpse of what oppression based on age involves... Children are ... being considered helpless, dependent, and cute - creatures to be cherished and taken are of... but not full human beings to be deeply respected... and trusted with significant power. They experience 10-15 years of unpaid labor and brainwashing in our current form of education."

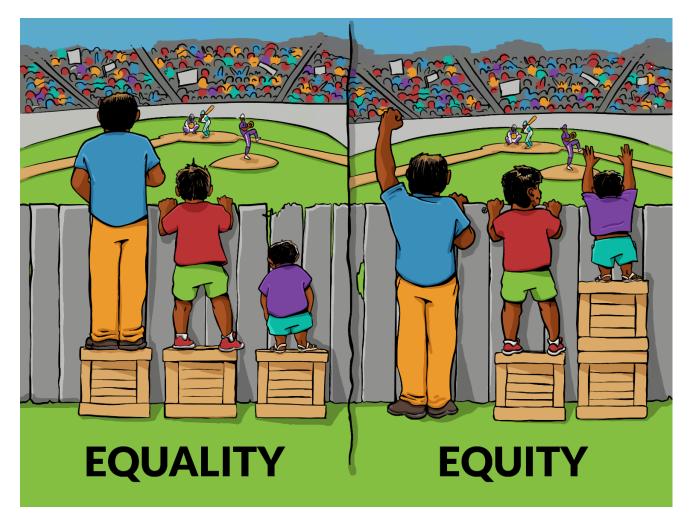


"the issue of intergenerational sex continues to be debated vigorously in many gay and lesbian communities. The protection of children is deemed by some to be ethically crucial to the development of gay identity, but is dismissed by others as 'erotic hysteria' (Rubin, 1993:6). What is the status of different, and arbitrary, age-ofconsent laws? Do children have a sexuality and a right to sexual agency? Why is age -unlike, say, race or class-understood as a sexualized powerdifferential protected by law? Is it possible to eroticise children in an ethical way? These are the questions commonly raised—and by no means yet resolved— in the controversy over intergenerational sex" – Jagose, Queer Theory: An *Introduction,* 70-71)





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Interaction Institute for Social Change | Artist: Angus Maguire.





"racial discrimination is the sole cause of racial disparities in this country and in the world at large." - Kendi, Stamped from the Beginning, p. 11

"When you truly believe that the racial groups are equal, then you also believe that racial disparities must be the result of racial discrimination" - Kendi, Stamped from the Beginning, p. 11

A racist policy is any measure that produces or sustains racial inequity between racial groups.... Racist policies have been described by other terms: 'institutional racism,' 'structural racism,' and 'systemic racism.' But those are vaguer terms than 'racist policy'.... 'Racist policy' says exactly what the problem is and where the problem is... Racism itself is institutional, structural, and systemic" - Kendi, How to Be an Antiracist, p. 18



- Group disparities obscure individual variation
- Good and just systems produce disparities
- Not all policies to eliminate disparities are morally permissible
- Unintended consequences matter
- Pipeline problems should be considered

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Centering emotions/experience

"It is about race if a person of color thinks it is about race... whether or not someone is fallible is beside the point. We are, each and every one of us, a collection of our lived experiences...And our experiences are valid." - Oluo



Centering emotions/experience

- Don't equate impact with intent...your words or behavior had a negative impact on those around you, and that's what matters. Apologize and do better next time.
- Don't demand proof of a POC's lived experience or try to counter their narrative with the experience of another POC.
- Do not chastise POCs (or dismiss their message) because they express their grief, fear, or anger in ways you deem "inappropriate." Understand that historically, we white people have silenced voices of dissent and lament with our cultural idol of "niceness." Provide space for POCs to wail, cuss, or even yell at you. Jesus didn't hold back when he saw hypocrisy and oppression; POCs shouldn't have to either.
- Don't get defensive when you are called out for any of the above. When a POC tells you that your words/tone/behavior are racist/oppressive/triggering, you stop. Don't try to explain yourself (see #6.)



From Whiteness 101 for the Be the Bridge Facebook Group

Centering emotions/experience

- Our compassion must be grounded in truth
- Our emotions must be reformed to Scripture
- Our experiences are fallible

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 - Scripture over everything
 - Mission over diversity
 - Opportunity over equity
 - Agape over inclusion
 - Scripture over feelings
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Scripture over diversity

"After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, 'Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!'" - Rev. 7:9-10

"Ethnic diversity is not virtuous in and of itself. **Hell is** also a very diverse place. . . . Unity is not virtuous in itself. Hell is also a very unified place." — Shai Linne, *The New Reformation*, p. 20-21

Scripture over equity

"You shall do no injustice in court. You shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great, but in righteousness shall you judge your neighbor." — Lev. 15:19

"So Peter opened his mouth and said: "Truly I understand that **God shows no partiality**, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him." – Acts 10:34-35

"My brothers and sisters, believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ must not show favoritism." – James 2:1

Scripture over feelings

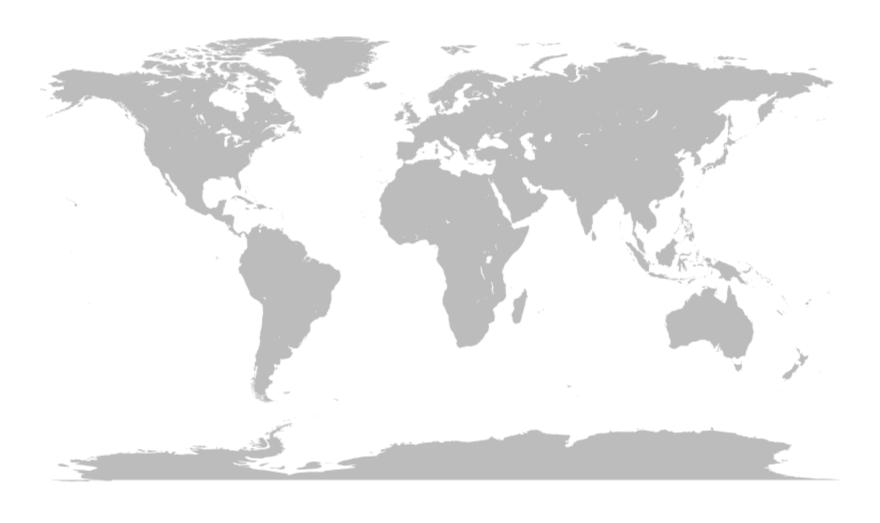
"The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it?" – Jer. 17:9

"There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death." – Prov. 14:12

"The one who states his case first seems right, until the other comes and examines him." – Prov. 18:17

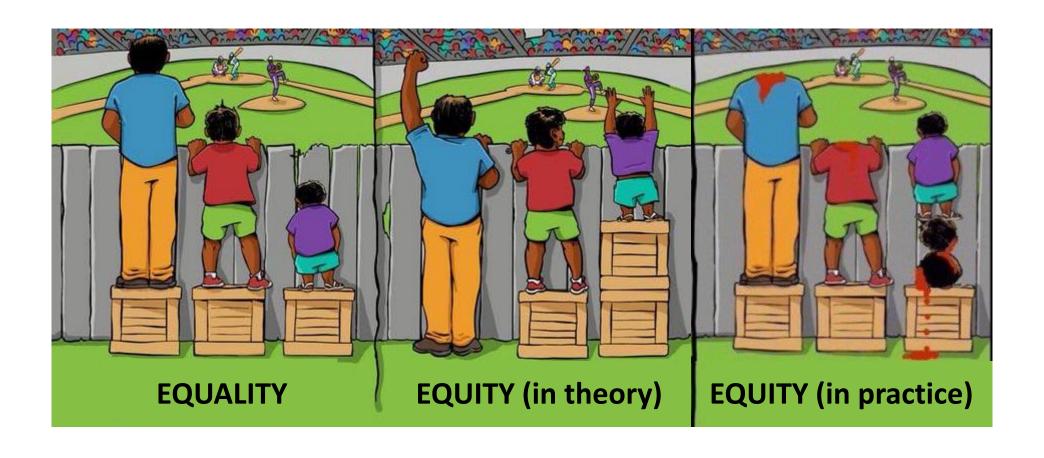
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Mission over diversity



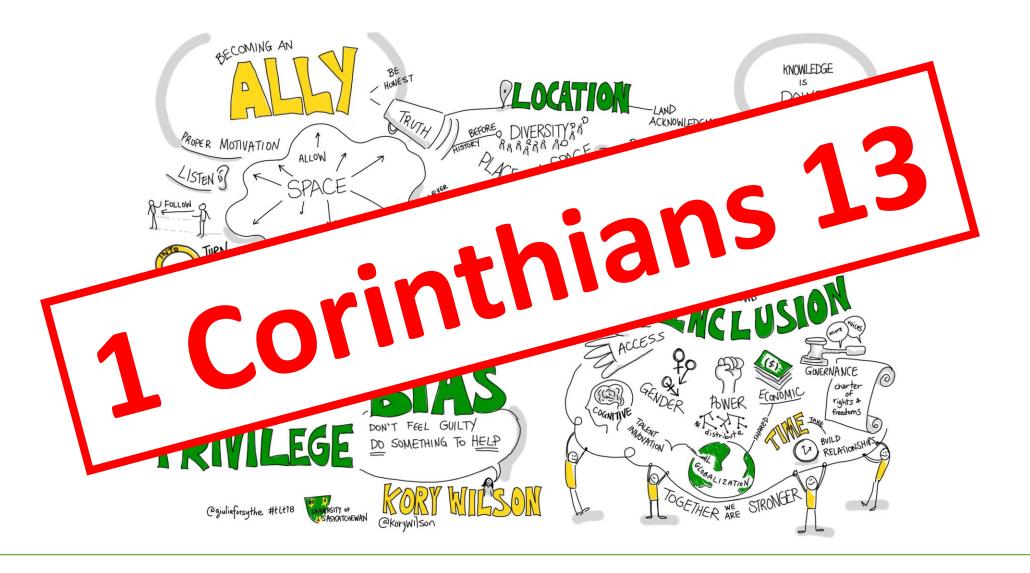
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Opportunity over equity



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Agape over Inclusion

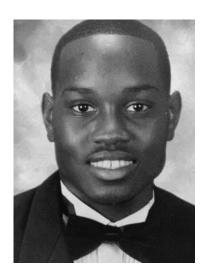


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Truth over Feelings













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 - Mutual accountability
 - Broad reading
 - Unity in Christ

Mutual accountability

- Active listening rephrase their arguments in your own words in a way they'd affirm
- Shared responsibility speak to others the way you'd want to be spoken to
- Build consensus:
 - "Define the racial problem"
 - "Identify what we have in common"
 - "Recognize our cultural or racial differences"
 - "Create solutions that answer the concerns of the racial outgroup"
 - "Find a compromise solution that works best for all"

Example: Racial representation

A small Bible college has a student body that is 80% white and a faculty that is 90% white. A number of Black students have expressed dissatisfaction at the lack of Black representation. In response, the administration has committed to creating a student body that is 30% non-White and a faculty that is 20% non-White by 2025. A group of anonymous students and parents has written an open letter protesting the adoption of "Critical Race Theory" by the college.



The "Progressive" Perspective

- The Bible college was founded by whites trying to avoid school integration
- Blacks were explicitly prohibited from attending
- Given its history, Blacks are uncomfortable applying to the college
- POC on campus feel culturally isolated
- Students and faculty were largely silent after the murders of Ahmaud Arbery and George Floyd



The "Conservative" Perspective

- No current policies discriminate against Blacks
- Racial preferences in admission or hiring are a form of partiality, which the Bible forbids
- The college draws heavily from the local county, which is 75% white
- Student protests repeatedly promoted the Black Lives Matter organization



THE Biblical Solution



memegenerator.net

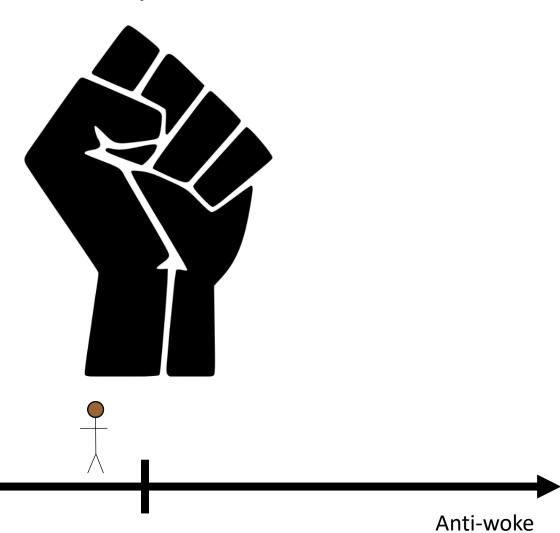
Potential Compromises

- Creation of multi-perspective council on race
- Active recruitment of Black students
- Partnership with local schools/communities
- Culture as one aspect of qualification
- Removal of percentages in favor of procedures
- Series of talks on race and biblical theology
- School-wide recognition of college's racial history

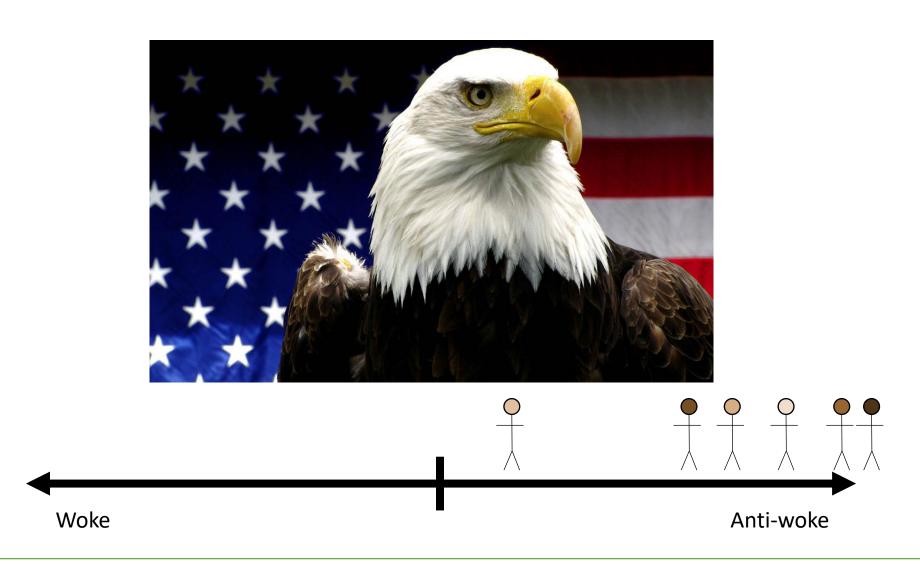


Wokeham University Panel on Race

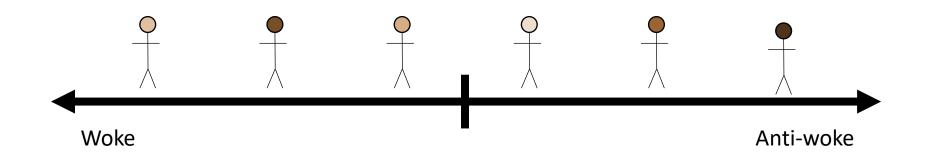
Woke



American Freedom College Panel on Race



Missio Nexus Panel on Race



Potential Compromises

- Creation of multi-perspective council on race
- Active recruitment of Black students
- Partnership with local schools/communities
- Culture as one aspect of qualification
- Removal of percentages in favor of procedures
- Series of talks on race and biblical theology
- School-wide recognition of college's racial history



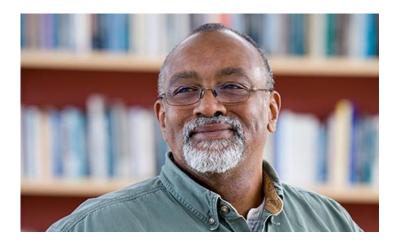
- What's going on in our culture?
- What is critical theory?
- DEI Done Wrong
- Reclaiming Christian community
- A way forward
 - Mutual accountability
 - Broad reading
 - Unity in Christ

Read broadly













- What's going on in our culture?
- What is critical theory?
- DEI Done Wrong
- Reclaiming Christian community
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 - Mutual accountability
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 - Unity in Christ

Unity in Christ

"I, as a Black, dreaded, hip-hop head from West Philly, have fundamentally more in common with a White coal miner from the mountains for West Virginia, a White stay-at-home mom from South Dakota, or an aging Chinese-American doctor from the Bay Area —if they are Christians— than I have with my Black, hip-hop head cousin from South Philly who doesn't know Christ! This is the glory and beauty of the **new humanity**" – Linne, *The New* Reformation, p. 191



Acknowledgements

Dr. Christina Shenvi



- shenviapologetics.com/slides/
- criticaldilemma.com/
- Twitter @NeilShenvi

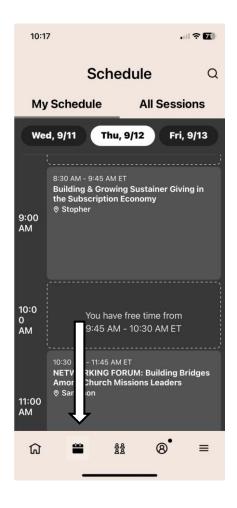
Dr. Pat Sawyer



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Next, find your workshop and click on the + to add it to your schedule.

Once added, click on the workshop title to see the workshops details including the survey.

