

ENDURING INEQUALITIES AND NEW AGENDAS FOR WIDENING PARTICIPATION IN HIGHER EDUCATION

RECOGNIZING AND TROUBLING RACIAL MICROAGGRESSIONS IN HIGHER EDUCATION

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WHY IS MY CURRICULUM WHITE?



DECOLONISING SHEFFIELD

BME STUDENTS COMMITTEE

BLACK STUDENTS, WHITE CURRICULUM

CHALLENGING THE EUROCENTRISM OF ACADEMIA

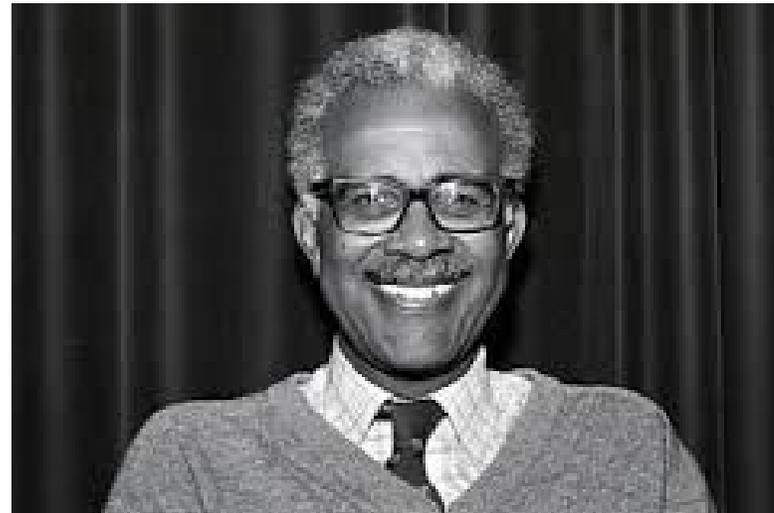
9 DECEMBER

Hicks Lecture Theatre 7
5.30 - 7.30 PM

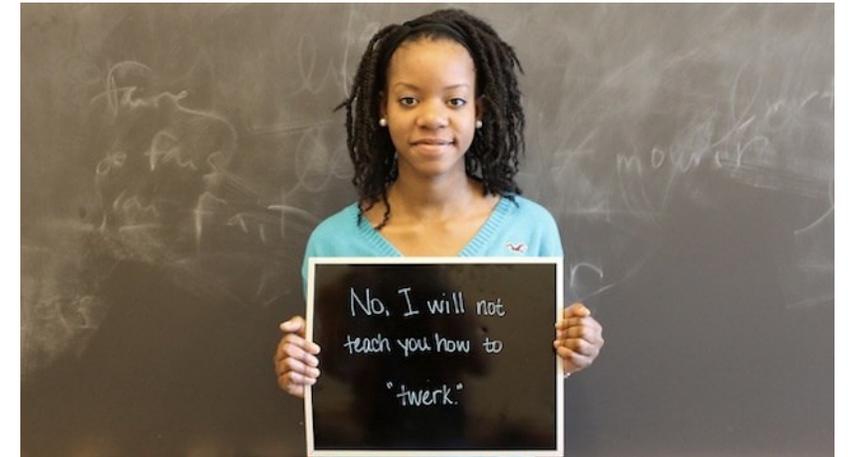


WHAT ARE RACIAL MICROAGGRESSIONS?

- Everyday racisms
- Seemingly innocuous
- Subtle
- Cumulative burden



WHAT ARE RACIAL MICROAGGRESSIONS?



'I think we could obviously be here all day talking about little, no, not little, but incidences where we have had racism... there was probably loads every week... we wanna always label it as something that is subtle... that happens but is all really, really micro. So we never really actually discuss it and talk about it' (Trent).

racial microaggressions are 'only micro in name' (Pierce, 1974: 520).

WHAT ARE RACIAL MICROAGGRESSIONS?

'it's not damaging, it's not something that I'll look back and go rah, I've had some broken years since that but it is, just that's a bit odd. And when you look back it's the odd stuff, and like I say the weird vibe stuff that is often the kind of, somewhere there might have been a racial issue there' (Reece).

It wasn't serious racism, it was banter, like having a laugh but cos I'm the person I am, I don't take it to heart. I say things back and all that. Know what I mean? But there's been a few times when it's been proper serious. When they've like meant it. Like yeah, hurt my feelings (Zak)

THE THREAT OF RACIAL MICROAGGRESSIONS

'Man, its left an imprint in my brain where like, I can't help but see race now like... it's just become one of them things and I think that's a shame cos even though I'm more aware, it does make me see myself as different from others... My identity got really affected cos before I'd have no issue in like mixing with white people and thinking I'm in the group and now like I'm with white people but then I see myself as different so then I've always got that sort of separateness within me, from the rest of the group, and it's a shame, but, yes' (Anton, UK).

DEALING WITH RACIAL MICROAGGRESSIONS

'All blacks must have a firm theoretical grasp of racism in order to dilute its crippling effects' (Pierce, 1988: 33).

'...it will probably explain a lot of the things that happened, that you don't want to accept. Like it can be the case that shit happens to you and if you're not racially conscious you can build up stories as to why that shit is happening to you and making it about like personal you, when it's like obviously the system of oppression' (Trent).

MY EXPERIENCES...

- Mistaken identity
- “Should you be in here?”
- “Do *you* teach here?”



AM I BEING OVERLY-SENSITIVE?
AM I SEEING RACE WHERE IT ISN'T?

'White people need to understand so much and they don't. I often find myself saying white people just don't get it and they don't. And it's like, they're like in a world where they're not really meant to get it and it's like they don't want to get it and like they don't understand what they have to get like [laughs]. It's like hard for white people... White people like they look at discrimination as like individual. Or like something that happens like on instances instead of like a system... it's like half white people's fault, half not, cos like they don't really know. It's like hard to teach somebody about privilege that they grew up with' (Tayo).

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