The Harm of White Supremacist-Born Stereotypes, Exclusions, & Representations

Racism

- Human difference does NOT make racisms, rather **racisms make 'race'**. Racism is the **outcome of human actions**, NOT the inevitable action of human difference.
- Desire to find **differences**, have **power**, find **justification** for **dispossession** that creates categories of 'race'.
- Many different kinds of racism each with own **histories**, **manifestations**, and **consequences**, which can become more intense depending on the **context**.

Racialization & Exclusion

- **Patterns** of cultural representation, knowledge production, and social organization. Historically **produced**, **invented**, **popularized** over time, and with real **material consequences**.
- Racializations are always **relational**; one group is racialized in relation to another group, giving meaning to **socially imagined difference**. Organized around **exclusion**!

Material Exclusions
- Access to wealth, services, territories, institutions, and life itself.

Social Exclusions
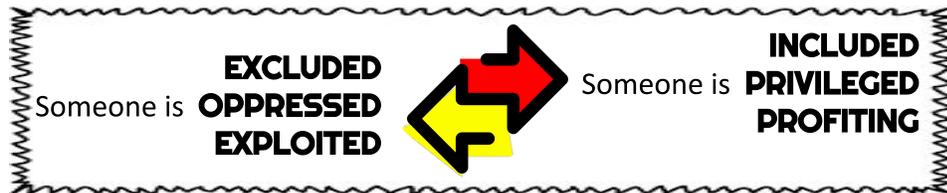- Access to a particular kind of status, networks, social roles, and political rights.

Symbolic Exclusions
- Not being represented, self-presentation ignored, and not taken seriously.

(Stanley, 2011)

*Important to understand **both sides** of the coin*

EXCLUDED
Someone is **OPPRESSED EXPLOITED**

INCLUDED
Someone is **PRIVILEGED PROFITING**

'Yellow Peril' *(since 1900s)*
- The racist stereotypes pose Asian migration as a threat to white supremacy and Asian challenge to European supremacy. Discourse functions to create an entity to fear & extinguish.

'Model Minority' *(since 1960s)*
- The stereotype circulates the myth of colorblindness. Model minority achievements as proof of meritocracy & racial liberalism.

"If you work hard you can make it..."

Continuity of Both Stereotypes *(since 1980s)*
- Both stereotypes are ambivalent & contradictory in meanings. Model minority seemingly positive a stereotype is **inseparable** from the yellow peril negative stereotype. Both are circular and allude a threat to white supremacy.

COVID-19 *(since 2020)*
"China Virus"
- Politicizing virus and **reviving deeply imbedded scapegoat ideas** of the yellow peril, and Anti-Asian violence in the US & Canada.

Stereotypes

- **Mechanisms** for making sense of the world, as dominant ideologies **differentiating self** from the world.
- Stereotypes do NOT only involve **making difference**, but also **simplify**, **fix**, and **exaggerate** meaning.
- The **difference is crucial to meaning**.

Two stereotypes of Asians exist on a continuum:
Model Minority vs **Yellow Peril**

- But both stereotypes are **inseparable** and underlined by **exclusion**.
- The **colorblindness** of 'Model Minority' attributes the consequences of **racial inequality** to individual **under performance**.
- Both stereotypes are **inseparable** and **circular** as both present a **threat to white supremacy**.

(Bae & Tseng-Putterman, 2020; Kawai, 2006; Rajgopal, 2010)

Film & Media

- Film as a way of **raising student consciousness**, but ALSO a **signifying practice** and a tool for resistance or subversion. If racialization is about signifying practice, film is a **way of circulating those significations**.
- Literature and cinema can be a **political forces of mass deception**. Denying the humanity of communities by **restricting to narrowly defined roles** by the gatekeepers of mass media.
- Plays a crucial role in **constructing categories** that reinscribe **racial hierarchies** mirroring the **political climate** of the day. Film has contributed to the spread of anti-Blackness, Orientalism, and white-supremacy.

"Cinema is a teaching tool – pedagogical tool; filmmakers may not intend to teach but that does not mean that lessons are not learned"

(hooks, 1997)

Language & Images

- Language about race does NOT record or document an objective reality of real biological, social & cultural difference; rather **language creates the idea of such difference**.
- Categories are **historically invented**, created & reinvented.
- Racialization happens through stories, symbols, words, phrases, and sounds. None of these images are innocent, they are **created**, **circulated**, and **taken for granted** at the social level having **material consequences**.

Representation

- Signs, symbols, words, phrases & sounds that **communicate meaning**. Human beings come to know the world through representations.
- Representations reappear in **new forms** to confuse the average viewer (*e.g., in film and media*) … Lulling us into the **delusion** that **racist discourses have changed** completely.
- The circulation of representations works to **disposes and exclude** in order to **colonize** and **secure** a **Western reality**.

Power

- Power is required to **organize exclusions** and efforts of multiple individuals.
- State systems **organize violence** and have the capacity to **mask the violence** & **'justify' their actions**.
- Works to **maintain** anti-Blackness, Orientalism, and white supremacy.

"If we can name who is the doer then we have a way of getting accountability.... Naming the institutions/machines is too amorphous..."

(Rajgopal, 2010; Stanley, 2011)

Building a Better Future

- We must understand that **racisms are multiple**, have **NO essential form**. Thus, we must approach **anti-racism** in the same way.
- Promote **deracialized inclusions** and **mitigate consequences** of racialization.
- Importance of **specificity**, and paying attention to the **context**. Must think about **racial meanings** locally & globally.
- Thinking **'and'** NOT 'either/or'. Commiting to **dismantle**, **undo**, **unlearn**, **deny**, **abolish** racist rule through **international solidarities**.
- Change over time allows us to understand the constructed nature of seemingly permanent categories.
- Developing language that admits the reality of racist injury **without reproducing** the categories that are the problem.
- Thinking about our relationship to the subject and our willingness to look our own power and privilege in relation to what we are talking about.

*Beneficial for **acknowledgement** of the **historic role** people in the **West** played in **creating chaos** in the 'Third World'. Calling NOT for charity & empathy but an **analysis of intertwined systems** of **anti-blackness**, **orientalism**, global white supremacy.*

(Bae & Tseng-Putterman, 2020; Kawai, 2006; Stanley, 2011; Rajgopal, 2010)

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