Knowledge of Racism versus Wisdom about it....

Wisdom in the service of dismantling systemic racism

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ECCSSA Presentation Responses to Reviewer Comments

- Directly related to conference theme.
  - This conference is a call for “need for a wisdom-based economy, where citizens need to be more resilient, more adaptable, and more responsible for facing the future. Academia.” Dialogue: Racism and the conference we are hosting strives educate and empower participants to be all that.

- Knowledge of race, genetic basis and nuances of racism; strategies for reducing it.
  - Psychology of racism begins with defining the concept and the origin of the myth and the reality. Dialogue: Racism is the strategy for reducing it.

- Case studies with empirically-based results.
  - Psychology studies of strategies effective in enabling people to overcome stereotype threat.

- Need to move from knowledge of negative effects to the wisdom that must be employed to engage in the process of dismantling the structural racism that permeates society today.
  - Reports from institutions around the country that are working to dismantle elements of institutionalized racism.

- Whether it will ever be eradicated or whether people can learn strategies to be tolerant.
  - I’m on the record; I want to eliminate racism in my lifetime. Step one will be able to get people to commit to believing it can happen.

- Place conversation within the context of the racist rhetoric of the current political climate.
  - What happens in the next two years will determine whether it will take a revolution.

- Sustainability component to this work. Relationship between racism and sustainability will be particularly timely.
  - I’m getting a few students to attend every time Dialogue: Racism is presented and all but one has agreed everyone should have the experience.

- Present with scholarly objectivity.
  - I’m hoping for temerity.
I hope to put on my tombstone: I came, I saw, I conquered racism, healed it, that is.

• This has been a virtually lifelong journey for me.

• I have no doubt that I daily commit microaggressions.

• I beg your forgiveness in advance for my misspeaking in next two days.
I own this.
I’m trying to use it effectively.

Racism
Sexism
Homophobia
Xenophobia
(WASP-HMVS)
(Ruth Peachey, MD)
Kant, Rand and I agree: A is A; B is B; A can never equal B and vice versa. (no fake news!)

I often say: “let’s not beat around the “bush.”

The problem is racism, let’s get outta denial.
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In a pyramid, every brick depends on the ones below it for support. If the bricks at the bottom are removed, the whole structure comes tumbling down.
1. Racism is an emotional commitment to ignorance.

2. Racism is a disease:
   1. infectious—inherited and/or learned,
   2. symptomatic or asymptomatic,
   3. diagnosed or undiagnosed, presented for treatment or not.

3. Racism is a mental illness.

4. Racism is our national shame and disgrace.
OUR legacy of slavery, emancipation, Jim Crow, etc. includes: MISTRUST DISTRUST FEAR ETC
What is wisdom?

Perspective

We only live once, snoopy.

Wrong! we only die once. We live every day!

Approach to the problem

Dear Donovan,

I tried to come in and get your tooth but there were so many toys on your floor, I tripped and fell.

I am going to come back tonight. Please make sure your room is clean so I won’t hurt myself again.

— Tooth Fairy
Wisdom needs to see the connection between all the elements of the problem & divine a solution.
EVERY SOCIAL & ENVIRONMENTAL AILMENT HAS A RACIAL COMPONENT

UNTIL WE HEAL THE RACISM, WE CANNOT HOPE TO FIX THE REST

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Eliminating structural racism requires first meeting everyone’s basic needs

- Air: Pollution occurs with government advice and consent and subsidies…. Duh
- Water Pollution and depletion occurs with same….duh
- Food would be better if produced sustainably, which would provide jobs, protect the earth, improve health
When nobody is hungry, we will have ended racism

INFRASTRUCTURE: produce + transport + communicate + educate + govern = work

healthy environment

vibrant economy

equitable society

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Atitudes and values that lead to create a nation of innovative and motivated people who think and act sustainably.

- Makes a compelling case: over the ages violence has diminished
- We have equally compelling evidence the environment is degrading rapidly, climate change, dropping water tables, pollution, trash, plastic in ocean
- Michael Dowd explains the paradox here:
  - Pinker is looking at change from human perspective
  - Other scientists are looking at ecology, environment, air, water, land, soil—depleted and washing out to sea
We need to figure out for ourselves and teach our students:

How do I figure out where I fit into the big picture?
Ending modern slavery


• O.U.R.  Our Underground Railroad
  • Stopping trafficking and helping victims recover

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Protect the environment from whence cometh our food/Develop the infrastructure to provide jobs/ won’t happen until and unless we create the equitable society where it works for everyone. HOW?

- Know one another … really
- Be fair with one another … really

Remembrance & Reconciliation Reparations

- Universally superb education
- Full and open education for all
- Enforce laws & policies equitably
- Universal, affordable health care
Arguably the main nidus of struggle resides in the sphere of production.

- What might be produced in areas where there is an abundance of people and a deficit in natural resources?
  - Desert? Solar power
  - Inner city? Community garden
  - Flooded shoreline? Floating fisheries, oysters
"Sally Mann: A Thousand Crossings“
MFAH

• great and moving photographs, especially those in the deep South (re Emmett Till, e.g.) The video at the end of the exhibit in which she talks about racism and her shame in accepting the status quo and not questioning the "real life" of her African American caregiver is a moment in which white privilege and unaware racism are dealt with openly and painfully. GREAT EXHIBIT.
"Odyssey: Jack Whitten Sculpture 1963-2017"
African American sculptor
Individuals and Organizations making a difference

• Ending racism and healing the damage from oppression
• Chuck Collins
• Patriotic Millionaires
• Bill Gates Sr. & Bill Gates Jr.
Big financiers buy abandoned properties or get by paying taxes; sell at high prices and interest.
Remember the wisdom of the warriors...

• "that whether we are black or brown or white, we all bleed the same red blood of patriots, we all enjoy the same glorious freedoms, and we all salute the same great American Flag."

• "The three great essentials to achieve anything worth while are: Hard work, Stick-to-itiveness, and Common sense."

• "A tree is known by its fruit; a man by his deeds. A good deed is never lost; he who sows courtesy reaps friendship, and he who plants kindness gathers love."
Depends on how you look at it....

Repurposed food messages

Peanut Butter Snails
2 Medium celery sticks
1/2 cup Peter Pan creamy peanut butter
3 apple rings cut in half
4 pretzel sticks broken into thirds
12 mini semisweet chocolate morsels

Don't mess with MAMASAURUS
you'll get JURASSKICKED
STEALING SOMEONE'S COFFEE IS CALLED MUGGING.

THE OTHER DAY I HELD THE DOOR OPEN FOR A CLOWN. IT WAS A NICE JESTER

PASTEURIZE: TOO FAR TO SEE

NO MATTER HOW MUCH YOU PUSH THE ENVELOPE, IT'LL STILL BE STATIONERY

WHOEVER INVENTED "KNOCK-KNOCK" JOKES SHOULD GET A NO-BELL PRIZE

ENERGIZER BUNNY ARRESTED: CHARGED WITH BATTERY

I PUT MY GRANDMA ON SPEED DIAL. I CALL THAT INSTAGRAM
“Race” is a social construction: Why does it have so much power?

• Discrimination, putting things in the correct category and responding appropriately is an essential survival strategy.

• Individual differences within categories are more varied than differences between human categories.

• And the differences have value in making health care decisions.
Jim Crow era laws

“No matter how much education you give them, a million years from now, a Nigger will still be a Nigger.”

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The New Jim Crow
Ending modern slavery


• O.U.R. Our Underground Railroad
  • Stopping trafficking and helping victims recover

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ICYMI-Webinar: The Impacts of Online Hate
Get involved? Email Jessica Cobain

• Thank you for signing up for the webinar "The Impacts of Online Hate" hosted by Change the Terms. Here's the link to the video in case you missed it, and here's the link to the website if you're interested in signing the petition and/or adding your organization's name to the list of those that have signed on in support of the recommended policies.
Education inequality

Equality is not always Justice

To fix education, fix inequality

Average household income

Before taxes

- TOP 1%
- TOP 20%
- SECOND 20%
- THIRD 20%
- FOURTH 20%
- BOTTOM 20%

Sources: Congressional Budget Office. Figures in 2007 dollars.
So let’s get the political out of the way: personally I do not feel the grief we gave W or are giving Donny come close to what the media did to President Obama.
Yet somehow joy and happiness are still possible.