

Journal of Critical Race and Ethnic Studies

Volume 1

Issue 1

*The Backlash to Non-dominant Cultural
Narratives*

Article 4

December 2023

Contributors

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Recommended Citation

(2023) "Contributors," *Journal of Critical Race and Ethnic Studies*: Vol. 1: Iss. 1, Article 4.

Available at: <https://scholar.stjohns.edu/jcres/vol1/iss1/4>

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CONTRIBUTORS

Laura S. Brown, Ph.D., ABPP, is an intersectional, liberatory, decolonial feminist therapist in Seattle who has written and taught extensively on topics of trauma, lesbian issues, and feminist therapy theory. She has taught courses on these topics in the US, Canada, Israel, the Netherlands, Australia, and Taiwan, and via webinars now available in China. She is past president of APA Divisions 35 (Women), 44 (LGBTQ issues) and 56 (Trauma), and is Clinical Professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at the University of Washington.

Natalie P. Byfield, Ph. D., is the Founding Director of the Institute for Critical Race and Ethnic Studies at St. John's University and Professor in the Department of Sociology & Anthropology. Her research is interdisciplinary; it is broadly concerned with the role of knowledge in the exercise of power and control under racial capitalism. She studies the ways in which people create knowledge and information that render some groups dominant and subjugate others. Her writings draw on examples of language use in essential societal operations like policing, media, technologies, and research methodologies to illustrate how Western societies use knowledge to maintain white supremacy. She is the author of the monograph *Savage Portrayals: Race, Media, and the Central Park Jogger Story*. She has been a consultant on major documentaries about the Central Park Jogger case including "The Central Park Five," and the ABC 20/20 Documentary, "One Night in Central Park." She is an award-winning journalist. Her work has appeared broadly, including in the *New York Daily News*, *The New York Times*, *HuffPost*, *Time: The Weekly Newsmagazine*, and the *New York Law Journal*. Her current book project is titled "Minority Report: Place, Race, and State Surveillance in New York City."

Rodney D. Coates is a Professor of Critical Race and Ethnic Studies in the Department of Global and Intercultural Studies at Miami University (Ohio). He studies race and ethnic relations, inequality, critical race theory, and social justice. Coates is the recipient of the Joseph Himes Career Award in Scholarship and Activism from the Association of Black Sociologists, the Founder's Award for Scholarship and Service from the American Sociological Association, the Joseph B. Gittler Award by the Society for the Study of Social Problems (SSSP), and the Mid-American Conference (MAC) Outstanding Faculty Award for Student Success. Rodney has published dozens of articles and several edited books, and frequently writes on issues of race and ethnicity, education and public policy, civil rights, and social justice. Coates's coauthored book, *The Matrix of Race: Social Construction, Intersectionality, and Inequality* (2nd edition, 2021), has sold over 20,000 volumes. His most recent book is entitled *Critical Race and the Search for Truth* (forthcoming, 2024).

Lonice Eversley was born to revolutionaries who believed deeply in changing that which does not serve us well individually, and as a People. She was born in Harlem and raised in the Bronx, New York, and her greatest achievement is being Mom to her fabulous daughter, Rhandle. Lonice just entered her 24th year with the NYC DOE, as a Master Teacher in the South Bronx. She is a culturally responsive and sustaining educator and coach. Daily, Lonice encourages her students to

lift their voices and use their power to change the world. Lonice attended Clark University in Worcester, MA (undergraduate), and The Wagner School of Public Policy at NYU and Fordham University (graduate). Lonice is currently a LiberatED Fellow.

Richard Haynes is Director of School Support working with the NYC Men Teach program. Raised in New York and Virginia, Richard received his undergraduate degree from UVA and a Masters from the Johns Hopkins University. He has spent over 15 years working in education in various roles, first as a middle school teacher in Baltimore through Teach for America, then with different offices at NYC DOE from Analyst at Human Resources to work on the Expanded Success Initiative, a public-private partnership that supported improved educational outcomes for Black and Latino young men across 40 high schools in New York City schools. As Director of School Support, Richard currently supports the programmatic efforts of NYC Men Teach, an initiative through the Office of the Mayor's Young Men's Initiative (YMI), in partnership with the NYC Department of Education and City University of New York (CUNY). Launched in 2015, NYC Men Teach has already met its initial goal to recruit an additional 1,000 male teachers of color to teach in New York City schools.

Berta Esperanza Hernández-Truyol holds the Stephen C. O'Connell Chair at the University of Florida Fredric G. Levin College of Law. She is a human rights scholar whose initiatives seek to develop, expand, and transform the human rights discourse. She utilizes an interdisciplinary and international framework to promote human well-being and social justice around the globe. Hernández-Truyol focuses on issues of gender, race, ethnicity, culture, sexuality, language, and other marginabilities as well as their interconnections, spotlighting multidimensionality. Often centering on Latinas and la Cultura Latina, her body of work includes over 100 articles and chapters that critically examine equality, privacy, and dignity through a human rights lens. Currently, she is developing an innovative, justice-seeking theory, "awakening the law," utilizing the concept of "awakening" embraced by myriad disciplines to foster the attaining of a deep consciousness about and connection with the human condition. She is engaged in developing a series of works that will develop the Awakening model with the goal of deconstructing unjust established hierarchies.

Asya Johnson currently serves as the principal of Longwood Preparatory Academy (LPA) in the South Bronx, and has been instrumental in implementing Culturally Responsive Pedagogical Practices there since 2018. Dr. Johnson's research focuses on the self-efficacy of untenured teachers in non-traditional teacher education programs in Title I, low-achieving, urban schools. With a rich professional background, Dr. Johnson held roles at a Harlem charter school, including principal, and served as the Director of Special Education Programs for the NYC Department of Education's District 79. Engaging in city-wide initiatives, she contributed to the Diversity Advisory Group, shaping recommendations for diversity in NYC public school admissions. Dr. Johnson's commitment to educational equity extends to her roles as an adjunct professor at NYU, a member of the NYC Chancellor's Principal Advisory Board, and her appointment as one of

Chancellor Banks' Master Principals for the 2023-24 school year. She is also a cohort 19 Cahn Fellow for Distinguished Principals and a cohort 4 Gray Fellow for Principal Excellence, contributing to institutions like Rutgers University, St. John's University Institute for Critical Race & Ethnic Studies, and the African American Policy Forum's CRT Summer School.

Dina Klein is an educational leader in New York City. As Assistant Principal of Marsh Avenue Expeditionary Learning School (MAELS) in Staten Island, she champions the school's pursuit of educational equity and racial justice. Some of MAELS' collective success includes developing a cohesive vision for racial equity, building a structure of support for educators and leaders to engage in ongoing critical reflection and supporting young people to develop critical consciousness. Dina has worked in education for over a decade, starting her career as a paraprofessional, then building up towards leadership as a teacher, instructional guide, and now an Assistant Principal. She holds three master's degrees and earned her school building leadership license through Leaders in Education Apprentice Program (LEAP), where she was guided to craft antiracist, transformational leadership skills. Dina believes that everyone (including herself) has the potential to grow and transform, and that our school communities can foster great change towards a more equitable world.

Diana E. Lemon, formerly a paralegal at the Westchester County DA's Office, recently assumed the role of Co-Executive Director at LIFE Camp Inc., an anti-gun violence organization. She is a graduate of Mercy College and holds a Baccalaureate of Science degree in Legal Studies with a specialization in Paralegal Studies. Diana was elected twice, in May 2017 and May 2018, to serve as a Board Trustee for the Ossining Union Free School District and completed her term in June 2021. Additionally, she is the NAACP past Branch President for Ossining, NY and a founding member of Ossining's Juneteenth Council. In April 2022, Diana was appointed by the Village of Ossining to the Ossining Youth Bureau Advisory Board for a term of two years. Diana has an impressive dossier of accomplishments and acknowledgments, but none of them compare to her role as "Dream's Mom." She has co-founded a non-profit in memory of her daughter, the Ossining Community Garden of Dreams, enhancing local green space. The Legacy Center provides incubator spaces for businesses aligned with education, health, and social programs. Proudly embracing the title of "Queen Muva," Diana nurtures her 5-year-old daughter Lorde Rose and her nephew Kaiden as a foster mother.

Aja Y. Martinez (she/her) is an associate professor of English at the University of North Texas and author of the multi-award-winning book, *Counterstory: The Rhetoric and Writing of Critical Race Theory*. Her scholarship engages public and academic audiences in a series of new projects including several critical academic journal essays and book chapters, a CRT theoretical chapter for a Routledge collection, a special *College English* double issue on CRT, CRT symposia in three academic journals, and four book-length projects. Two of the book projects, co-researched and -written with historian and Indigenous studies scholar Robert O. Smith, are under contract with New York University Press and University of California Press—kicking off Cal UP's new series

on CRT. Martinez and Smith draw on mixed methods, ranging from archival, to ethnographic, to literary and rhetorical analysis, reframing the histories of CRT's origins in legal studies while making provocative claims concerning CRT's storytelling pedagogy, methodology, and theory. Additionally, Martinez is coeditor and cofounder, with Michele Eodice and Sandra Tarabochia, of the transdisciplinary, digital open-access, and multimodal journal *Writers: Craft and Context*. Last, Martinez is coeditor, with Stacey Waite, of the University of Pittsburgh Press's series *Composition, Literacy, and Culture*.

Yolanda Sealey-Ruiz, Ph.D., a graduate of NYU and Columbia Universities, is a Professor of English Education at Teachers College, Columbia University. Yolanda is a sought-after speaker on educational equity issues, author of numerous academic articles, co-editor of four books, and co-author of the multiple award-winning book, *Advancing Racial Literacies in Teacher Education: Activism for Equity in Digital Spaces*, where she examines her concept of Archeology of Self™ in education. At Teachers College, she is founder of the Racial Literacy Roundtables Series where for 15 years, national scholars, teachers, and students facilitate conversations around race and other issues involving diversity. Yolanda has appeared in several documentaries including Spike Lee's "2 Fists Up: We Gon' Be Alright" (2016), a documentary about the *Black Lives Matter* movement and the campus protests at Mizzou. Her first full-length collection of poetry, *Love from the Vortex & Other Poems*, was published in March 2020. Her sophomore book of poetry, *The Peace Chronicles*, was published in July, 2021. Beyond her artistic pursuits, Dr. Sealey-Ruiz's Archeology of Self™ theory and practice concept has been presented to thousands of educators and educational leaders within the United States and abroad.

Robert O. Smith (Chickasaw) is Assistant Professor of History at the University of North Texas, specializing in religious history, Indigenous studies, and critical race studies. Smith, an enrolled citizen of the Chickasaw Nation, is ordained as a pastor in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). In addition to many academic articles, he is the author of *More Desired than Our Own Salvation: The Roots of Christian Zionism* (Oxford, 2013) and editor, with Göran Gunner, of *Comprehending Christian Zionism: Perspectives in Comparison* (Fortress, 2014), and four book-length projects on Critical Race Theory (CRT) co-researched and -written with Aja Y. Martinez. Two of the CRT book projects are under contract with New York University Press and University of California Press—kicking off Cal UP's new series on CRT. Smith and Martinez draw on mixed methods, ranging from archival, to ethnographic, to literary and rhetorical analysis, reframing the histories of CRT's origins in legal studies while making provocative claims concerning CRT's storytelling pedagogy, methodology, and theory.

Nakeeba A. Wauchope is the Founder and Principal Facilitator for YeyeX Educational Consulting. She has expertise in providing training, coaching, support, and professional development in the areas of decoding racial literacy, critical consciousness, culturally responsive and sustaining education, addressing implicit bias, civic engagement, and dismantling systems of inequity. She has designed, created curricula and multifaceted assessments for numerous

organizations in New York City, throughout the United States, and internationally. Ms. Wauchope's experience also includes curriculum research in culturally responsive pedagogy, restorative justice practices, social emotional competencies, music and movements (soundtrack for social justice), sports and ethics in American culture, and hip-hop pedagogy. Ms. Wauchope worked as an educator with the New York City Department of Education for over 12 years and serves as an equity coach and consultant for a number of institutions.