

Witnessing Whiteness at UW-Madison

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problem instead of working toward a We are not aware that we are distancing ourselves from the solution.

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Session Goals

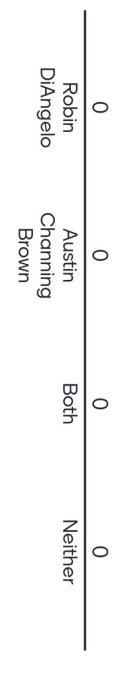
- → Highlight the importance of self-work for white people in racial justice work
- → Explore why white people use certain strategies that keep us from paying attention to race
- Investigate the intentions and impacts of using race-distancing strategies
- → Set an intention for future action



Participation Guidelines

- → Speak from your own experience
- → Take risks
- → Listen actively & discuss sincerely
- → Strong feelings are okay
- Impact matters more than intent
- → Notice & explore moments of defensiveness denial

Which keynote session(s) did you attend?





comes to mind? When you hear the word "whiteness" what



what did you FEEL? While listening to Robin DiAngelo talk about white fragility,



what did you FEEL? While listening to Austin Channing Brown's keynote,



Why did you choose this session? (Pick top 2)



To learn more about Witnessing Whiteness

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Engage in self-work regarding racial justice

I'm skeptical about white accountability groups

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Other

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Session Overview

- → What is Witnessing Whiteness?
- → Reflection activities
- Past participant feedback
- → Q&A
- → Resources and next steps



What is Witnessing Whiteness?





Goals of Witnessing Whitness

- → Explore personal relationship to race
- Notice and respond
- Identify patterns and develop tools
- Create accountability
- → Build community

Race distancing behaviors



Reflection Activity...



When someone says "I'm colorblind", what might they mean? What might they hope?



How might saying you are colorblind impact someone negatively even if it was meant positively?





lmagine that someone says they don't see an important part of you. How would that make you feel?

What are other race distancing strategies you've seen/heard/done?



Why is it important for us to know about the negative impacts of these strategies?



reflection? What feelings came up for you while doing this



What did you learn from the exercise?



Handout 1.1.1

Paying Attention to Race?

The following are very common intentions and impacts of strategies used to avoid race.

intentioned when we mean for it to 1. Tell people we recognize that we are all part of one group – the human race 2. Tell people we do not want to focus on the differences between people	3	Seeing oneself as colorblind may be intended to 1. Tell people we are against racism 2. Tell people we plan to treat everyone equally 2. Tell people we plan to treat everyone and the treat everyone and treat everyon	The INTENT
Coning minelf on without a war on hour a partie	impact because it can Tell people that we are not going to see that we might carry lingering racism within us Tell people that we don't see how race has shaped our attitudes and behaviors Tell people that we see race conscious people as less evolved than those who believe they have moved beyond race Tell people that we believe seeing racism is the problem in itself	g oneself as colobecause it can Tell people that lives when it. lives when it. lived experiency Tell people that tell us there is a say or do Tell people we privilege play or dea that we trans	The IMPACT

Witnessing Whiteness ---- www.witnessingwhiteness.com -- For use with Book Chapter 1, Workshop 1.1



How have past participants been impacted?



It has released some of the guilt and shame, and instead provided me with an actionable lens to hold myself accountable.



racism and take actions to increase promote a more equitable and just I continually think about my role in my knowledge of racism and culture.



exploring ways to do anti-racist work More confidence in discussing issues beyond just "calling other people of race in my daily life and in out."



whiteness in action or when my racial identity is influencing my response. I speak up when I notice my



have leveraged my leadership position to launch new DEI initiatives in my unit.



What questions do you have?

0 questions 0 upvotes



Resources

- witnessingwhiteness.com
- → healandharmonize.com











Call to Action:



