

Call for Article Submissions
Cultural Studies ↔ Critical Methodologies
(Sage Publications)

Special Issue: Systemic Racism, White privilege, and a Global Call to Action

Guest Co-Editors: C. Darius Stonebanks, Shirley Anne Tate, and Christine Faucher

The murder of George Floyd on May 25, 2020 at the hands of Minneapolis police officers for allegedly using a counterfeit twenty-dollar bill at a restaurant, ignited widespread outrage and massive protests in the United States of America and the Global North (GN) more generally, and generated condemnation across the globe against police brutality, unchecked state violence, and the continued oppression of Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC). Captured by a bystander's cellphone video, Floyd's grueling, cruel, and senseless killing by Derek Chauvin, sparked a "straw that broke the camel's back"—a cumulative response in the United States (U.S.) to the routine, yet increasing public, deaths of members of the Black community in the U.S. in the last few years (e.g., Breonna Taylor, Eric Garner, Tamir Rice, and so forth) and, more globally, in response to decades of violence against BIPOC.

Yet it was the naked, public brutality—the almost casual, dismissive killing of Floyd as he begged for his life—that shook the public narrative and opened up a space for both massive protests and demands for institutional change. As Dave Chappelle noted, when he finally brought himself to watch the video, he 'finally understood: nobody's going home. Anyone who sees this, well, they're going to be furious.' And they were—from Minneapolis to Madrid, Dublin to Dunedin—the streets of the U.S., Spain, Ireland, New Zealand, and dozens of countries in between became full of people who had had enough. Had had enough of unmitigated violence towards Black people, enough of pervasive anti-Muslim racism, enough of Indigenous rights being trampled on, enough of the scandalous treatment of immigrant populations, enough of unrepentant white settler colonialism, enough of decades of unfulfilled promises, enough of the terror of neoliberalism destroying their communities. Enough of all of it.

But beyond protest, George Floyd's murder has also served as a global reckoning. Racist monuments in the U.S., United Kingdom, New Zealand, Belgium, and elsewhere have come falling down. Sports teams in Canada and the U.S. have changed their previously racist nicknames. Public acts of racism are being called out on Twitter as a youthful generation leverages social media to raise awareness. Public institutions (universities, courts, museums, etc.) that have self-proclaimed being spaces of inclusion are being increasingly scrutinized for systemic racism. A growing sense of global solidarity continues to resonate.

This moment calls for a critical, performative, social justice inquiry directed at whiteness, imperialism, policing, allyship, activism and related ideas--a rethinking of where we have been, and, critically, where we are going.

Dedicated to George Floyd's six-year-old daughter, Gianna, who said that, "Daddy changed the world", this special issue of Cultural Studies ↔ Critical Methodologies (CSCM) delves into the theme of systemic racism in Global North institutions and public spaces, White privilege, and challenging the notion of unconscious bias in spaces that claim equity and justice.

Examples of paper topics may include:

- Whiteness and "failing up"
- Symbols and monuments connected to Black enslavement or the genocide of North American Indigenous peoples in public spaces
- Subversive, social justice activism and organizing via online resources
- BIPOC "voice" and was anyone listening?
- White calls, pleads and/or demands for peaceful protests and/or patience
- Global interpretations of White privilege and the Black Lives Matter movement
- US global imperialism, endless wars on "terror", legal torture in the Middle East and US Black lives at home
- Gaslighting the BIPOC community
- BIPOC individuals and workplace mobbing
- Critical Inquiry as a qualitative means of disrupting the status quo of white anti-BIPOC violence
- New modes of colonialism in White allyship
- BIPOC fear, solitude, and anxiety in "safe spaces"
- Racial profiling in public spaces that claim colour-blindness or anti-racism
- Forms of institutionally accepted "White rage" and enduring BIPOC stereotypes that assume danger
- State repression of BLM protest

Preference will be given to texts which combine ethnographic, performative, and textual approaches to the study of popular culture, and include the media as well as new communication and information technologies. CSCM transcends disciplines and crosses ethnic, gender and paradigmatic boundaries to produce an inclusive vision that is vital to today's interpretative practices in the human disciplines. Submissions should be made using the CSCM guidelines (<https://journals.sagepub.com/author-instructions/CSC>), include a cover letter indicating its intention for the special issue and be submitted no later than December 31, 2020. Questions regarding the special issue can be made to C. Darius Stonebanks at cstoneba@ubishops.ca