**Community Psychology Topic Interest Group Anti-Racist Reflection and Action Statement**

**June 12, 2020**

The Community Psychology Topical Interest Group recognizes that it is crucial to be vocal and action-oriented regarding the police murder of Black individuals, most recently, George Floyd. There are many ways racism and white supremacy are still present in our society, and this cannot continue. In line with the theme of the AEA 2018 conference, Community Psychologist-Evaluators must use our privileges to not only speak truth to power but also act, both individually and systemically, now and long term. We must be anti-racist in our evaluation work.

As Community Psychologists, “we work to enhance well-being and promote social justice for all people by fostering collaboration where there is division and empowerment where there is oppression (https://www.scra27.org/who-we-are/).” Community Psychology focuses on a vision of what ought to be, a just society (Rappaport, 2005). What can we do as Community Psychologist-Evaluators to align with this mission? We must conduct evaluation as a change strategy (Cook, 2014), drawing attention to racial injustice in the systems and programs we evaluate. We must advocate our value positions, on behalf and with program beneficiaries. As evaluators, there can be a tension between evaluating objectively and advocating. Miller (2004) wrote that we place priority on social critique and activism, activities which the broader evaluation community may believe compromises evaluation’s credibility. We recognize this tension, while also standing by advocacy having a crucial and valid role in evaluation.

In addition to action, now is also a time for critical reflection on how our work may reinforce white supremacy, whether it in the organizations/programs that we evaluate, our evaluation practices, our training, or whose goals and outcomes we choose to prioritize. We must listen and learn from people with lived experience of racism, as well as do our own work in understanding its history. We must also speak up when we see and hear white supremacy being reinforced. During my critical reflection in preparing this statement, I (Michelle) searched the history of Community Psychology and Evaluation in literature and course readings, to find writings of Black Community Psychologist-Evaluators from decades ago to highlight, and it was challenging. I am familiar with the work of Stafford Hood and Rodney Thompson and the “Nobody Knows their Name Project.” They highlight the work of African American evaluators who have been excluded from the documented history of Educational Evaluation (Hood & Hopson, 2008). Has this also happened in Community Psychology evaluation?

We close with an excerpt from the late Jim Kelly’s writings, who passed recently. This is a still relevant call for us to do better as psychologists:

*“Too often, psychologists have been models for community change that represents, at best, tokenism…I am confident that few psychologists have given our time to see the promotion of a civic cause fulfilled… the major problems of poverty, racism, and pollution go beyond most of our current competencies. The ecological development of a community means that the professional must be willing to develop. Leave the professional cocoon and affiliate with many and divergent persons and their resources.”*

If we have not already, we must leave our professional cocoons, and use our competencies to take risks as Community Psychologist-Evaluators in action against racism at all levels. One of Jim Kelly’s competencies for Community Psychologists is a balance between patience and zeal. Now is a time for zeal.

Together in action,

Community Psychology TIG Leadership Team

Michelle Abraczinskas, CP TIG Chair

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Reference the following resource list for ideas for personal growth, learning, and action at multiple levels.

**Resources for Growth & Action**

**Increasing Personal Knowledge & Growth**

[resources to understand systemic racism in America](https://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/158-resources-understanding-systemic-racism-america-180975029/)

[Documentaries](https://www.docplay.com/articles/10-documentaries-to-watch-about-race-instead-of-asking-a-person-of-colour-to-explain-things-for-you/)

[Anti-racism training free til end of June](https://www.driep.org/anti-racism-training)

[ted talks about race](https://blog.ed.ted.com/2016/07/25/10-ted-classroom-resources-about-race-in-america/)

[Book & Viewing recommendations](https://www.pbs.org/newshour/nation/what-to-read-listen-to-and-watch-to-learn-about-institutional-racism?utm_source=facebook&utm_medium=pbsofficial&utm_campaign=newshour&utm_content=1591466421)

Follow your local black lives matter chapter and other racial justice focused groups on Facebook and/or Twitter to find events in your community.

**Google Docs groups have put together for reflection & action**

[Anti-bias anti-racism resources](https://docs.google.com/document/u/0/d/1dwukUyeO4zAl4s9PmbRf2uPbzgG8vBd0emTSvk9OVcI/mobilebasic)

[Justice in June](https://docs.google.com/document/u/0/d/1H-Vxs6jEUByXylMS2BjGH1kQ7mEuZnHpPSs1Bpaqmw0/mobilebasic)

[Scaffolded anti-racist resources](https://docs.google.com/document/u/0/d/1PrAq4iBNb4nVIcTsLcNlW8zjaQXBLkWayL8EaPlh0bc/mobilebasic)

[Anti-racism resources for White people](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1BRlF2_zhNe86SGgHa6-VlBO-QgirITwCTugSfKie5Fs/mobilebasic)

[Anti-racism library](https://leanin.org/article/anti-racism-resources?utm_source=social&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=antiracism)

**Society for Community Research and Action (SCRA) resource**

The [SCRA Anti-racist Resources spreadsheet](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1ZPuMu9pRV3ExY5a2yqCV9OX6x5JfddcRTGDIFU6yF0g/edit?usp=sharing" \t "_blank) is a living documented that was created on June 1 by SCRA Secretary Lauren Lichty and is currently co-managed by Lauren and Jen Wallin-Ruschman. Information was compiled from their personal resources, posts on SCRA listservs (national and within councils), and individual member submissions through the google form. The first tab of the spreadsheet showcases in progress actions within the SCRA community.

If you are interested in sharing this resource outside of the CP world, please share [this public facing spreadsheet](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1w_XVqn50dXRkntIBU-Z0497lYmmNVlBrflYwvbhrrfg/edit?usp=sharing" \t "_blank).

Please use [this form](https://forms.gle/2DmdHzCuuqejedWj8" \t "_blank) to share comments or add resources.

**For Evaluation Practitioners**

Expand our knowledge base and practice to include culturally responsive, equity focused, and democratic evaluation methodologies, in addition to the empowerment and participatory approaches that are already highly promoted in Community Psychology.

[Planning an equity focused evaluation](https://www.betterevaluation.org/en/resource/guide/design_manage_equity_focused_evaluation)

[Racial Equity Tools](https://www.racialequitytools.org/resourcefiles/Sec-3-ch-9.pdf)

Community Tool Box Resources, including:

[Reducing prejudice and racism](https://ctb.ku.edu/en/table-of-contents/culture/cultural-competence/reduce-prejudice-racism/main)

Racism, social programming, and evaluation: Where do we go from here? See attached.

**For College and K-12 Educators**

[Tips for classroom conversations and teaching](https://docs.google.com/document/u/0/d/1v1BqIaK8N9eeLZow23Dg_4BLNsE4hwZxowwAlsyN_mw/mobilebasic)

[free for a limited time social justice resources](https://www.altairedconsulting.com/new-products/https/padletcom/ashinnawi/socialjustice)

[K-12 Curriculum resources](https://drive.google.com/drive/mobile/folders/1LGslwJwhXvpVnDgw0uC-n794l6EGzpuH)

**For Organizations**

[Anti-racist organizational development](http://www.njjn.org/our-work/training-and-resources)

[identifying institutional racism in organizations](http://allhomekc.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/Identifying-Institutional-Racism-Folio.pdf)

**For Parents**

[Talking to kids about race](https://www.prettygooddesign.org/blog/Blog%20Post%20Title%20One-5new4)

[talking to kids about racism and protests](https://www.today.com/parents/how-talk-kids-about-racism-protests-injustice-t182929)

[Children's books about race and activism](https://www.huffpost.com/entry/10-anti-racism-books-parents-explain-black-lives-matter_l_5ed593d3c5b6db4977a17841)