Navigating Race & Identity

Race, Identity & Difficult Conversations

On September 18, 2020, OISS organized a program called *Navigating Race, Identity, and Difficult Conversations*, featuring Ewurama Okai, an international Yale alumna and current PhD candidate at Northwestern University. Her presentation was followed by a panel discussion with current Yale international students, and the insights and personal experiences they shared were incredibly valuable. We encourage you to watch and listen to the recording and reach out to us [2] if you have questions or ideas for follow-up programs related to this topic.

Black Lives Matter

The Office of International Students and Scholars stands with and in support of all Black communities, particularly our Black students, staff, faculty, and New Haven community members. We encourage you to read the statements from university leaders including President Salovey [3] and Dean Nelson [4] that address issues of racial injustice.

For many U.S. citizens and visitors this is an important time to explore the issues, reflect on our own backgrounds, and make efforts to learn about the lives of others. Below are a few resources (there are many more) to start your exploration, to consider (re-consider) events in New Haven and nationally and find ways to get involved and stay informed.

Resources

- Anti-Racism Resources [9] compiled by writer Alyssa Klein and activist and filmmaker Sarah Sophie Flicker
- Yale Mental Health & Counseling Appointments Available [10]
- Innocence Project's list of 8 ways to support the fight for justice against police violence [12]
- Dwight Hall [13] - Center for Public Service and Social Justice
- What is Juneteenth? [14]
- A Conversation with President Obama about Reimagining Policing [15]
- Media Education Foundation [16] - Anti-racism videos streaming for free

Regarding Anti-Asian Racism and COVID-19

Excerpted from the Yale Center for the Study of Race, Indigeneity, and Transnational Migration (RITM) [17]

As the public health crisis associated with the Coronavirus pandemic continues to unfold, there have been disturbing reports of an increase in anti-Asian, and particularly anti-Chinese hate crimes and harrassment, in communities across the United States, including here in New Haven. At this time of heightened individual and societal stress, we wish to reiterate their firm stance against all forms of racism and xenophobia, and to urge awareness of the relationship between recent developments and the longer history of “yellow peril” fear mongering in the US and elsewhere.

Recent statements by the Association for Asian American Studies [18] and the President of the Association for
Asian Studies [19] contain useful resources both for those directly affected by harassment and those who are concerned about it. Please see RITM’s statement [20] for more information.

Land Acknowledgement

A Land Acknowledgment [21] is a simple, powerful way of showing respect and a step toward correcting the stories and practices that erase Indigenous people’s history and culture and toward inviting and honoring the truth. Yale University acknowledges that indigenous peoples and nations, including Mohegan, Mashantucket Pequot, Eastern Pequot, Schaghticoke, Golden Hill Paugussett, Niantic, and the Quinnipiac and other Algonquian speaking peoples, have stewarded through generations the lands and waterways of what is now the state of Connecticut. We honor and respect the enduring relationship that exists between these peoples and nations and this land.

Whose land are you on? [22]

Addressing Harassment or Discrimination

Although we very much hope this will not be necessary, please remember that if you find yourself targeted for harassment or discrimination of any kind, there are people here at Yale who can help.

First and foremost, if you find yourself in an emergency situation, call 911. For non-emergencies call Yale Police Department at 203-432-4400. Please check Addressing Harassment or Discrimination [23] for more information and resources.
[21] https://usdac.us/nativeland
[22] https://native-land.ca/
[23] https://oiss.yale.edu/life-at-yale/belonging-at-yale/diversity-inclusion-at-yale#addressing