

WHITE PRIVILEGE

- White privilege as a powerful tool to challenge racism
 - We first need to identify, then acknowledge the experience
 - It's an invisible (to those who have it,) obscured thorny concept
 - And when we do get hold of it, doesn't feel very good. Usually guilt, denial and defensiveness show up first.

- Two faces: Granted White Privilege and Internalized white Privilege

- Core Privileges
 - Being an Individual

Granted example: I am treated as an individual, not as part of the white group. I don't have to represent or reflect the abilities or traits of ALL white people. Internalized example: I can feel like an individual. "I'm not white, I'm just me."

- If I screw up...
 - It is not a reflection on all white people.
 - It's not seen that way by other white people or people of color
 - AND I don't have to feel my actions reflect on all white people
- "I earned it." People perceive i earned it. And I can feel I earned it.
 - "rugged Individual" and Bootstrap" Propaganda is at work
 - Internalized result: my inflated sense of self, illusion of superiority
- Speak in Universals
 - I can believe my perspective is the valid one
 - I have a false sense of the universality of my perspectives, perceptions, experiences, responses, knowledge.

The Default Option

- Is always available to me; I can challenge racism only when convenient, safe and easy; when my benefit and self interest are clear
- I can remain unconscious

The Intervention of Acceptance

- At stores, banks, schools, unemployment or welfare office, hospital, courts, bars
- It's active intervention
- Assumption of belonging
- Appearance: I feel acceptable in less than my 'Sunday Best'

Exemption from effects of racism and internalized racism

- I never had to face or overcome the debilitating effects of either.

WHITE PRIVILEGE + PASSION FOR JUSTICE = WHITE ANTI-RACIST