



CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Sources, Conceptualizations, and Mechanisms of Racism/Oppression Impacting Education-Related Outcomes and Well-Being Across the Lifespan

***AERA Open* Special Topic**

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Racism and oppression are woven into the fabric of every aspect of American life. Despite advances in opportunities and outcomes for Black Americans, interpersonal, systemic, and cultural racism and discrimination persists, impacting Black/African-Americans across the lifespan. The legacies of chattel slavery, Reconstruction, and Jim Crow, and the threat of White Supremacy remain ever-present in the inequities observed across our social, economic, political, criminal justice, and educational systems. Despite the forward strides of Desegregation, the Civil Rights Movement, Equal Employment Opportunity and Fair Housing Acts, and the Black Lives Matter movement, forces of racism and oppression continue to derail progress. Neighborhoods and schools are more segregated now than they were in 1954, the year of the Brown versus Board of Education court decision. Racial profiling and police brutality have increased; African American men are 2.5 times more likely to be killed by police than Whites and are more likely to be unarmed when killed. African American and Latinx youth are more likely to attend schools that enforce zero tolerance policies and strict conformity requirements, which are associated with excessive discipline and exacerbate the school-to-prison pipeline. While the overall rates of college attendance have increased, Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) are more likely to attend 2-year colleges, rather than 4-year colleges, and are less likely to graduate. Due to workplace discrimination, African Americans struggle to translate their educational accomplishments into success in the job market. These examples typify just some indicators of racism, reflecting the everyday lived experiences of BIPOC in our racially stratified society.

To date, significant research on racial inequities in education, discrimination and microaggressions in social contexts, and their impact on physical and mental health, general well-being, and educational trajectories have helped to heighten public awareness of broader and more diverse sources of racism, such as the inequitable policies and practices that increase exposure to environmental hazards, pollution, and food deserts. Empirical and theoretical conceptualizations of racism as unique forms of stress and trauma have implications for our understanding of the intrapersonal and interpersonal processes of experiencing and witnessing racism, as well as potential areas for intervention and protective factors. Examination of these macro and micro sources of racism provide insight into the insidious and far-reaching effects of interpersonal, institutional, and cultural racism and oppression. However, the field of education, broadly defined, lacks systematic theory, conceptualization, and measurement of these and other sources of racism, discrimination, and oppression. Further, to effectively reduce all forms of racism and its negative effects on educational, psychological, political, economic, and social

outcomes, the field requires a deeper understanding of the mechanisms through which racism, in its diverse manifestations, gets under the skin and undermines individuals' potential.

Research addressing racism and oppression among BIPOC is diverse and disparate, often conducted on small samples with sensitive measures, or on large nationally representative subsamples that lack the appropriate, culturally responsive measures to assess nuanced experiences and mechanisms of influence (i.e., theories of change). The field needs stronger and more sensitive conceptualizations and measurement of racism, and access to data reflecting diverse methodologies. While single studies are vital, sound measurement and replicable findings are essential to the development of equitable and just policies and evidence-based interventions designed to address, decrease, and dismantle racism and oppression.

These two challenges in the field (i.e., access to culturally sound conceptualization/measurement and access to data for replication) are ones that *AERA Open* is uniquely poised to address through a Special Topic. Because *AERA Open* is an open access online journal, all researchers and practitioners will have access to the papers published in this Special Topic, without subscription. This means that the findings and their implications will be available to those in the field working directly with BIPOC, diminishing the timeframe from science to practice. Moreover, every Special Topic article is published as soon as it is completed. Finally, as an Open Science journal, *AERA Open* uses its unlimited space, online, to promote access to data, research instruments, and protocols that facilitate and, indeed, stimulate the replication and extension of research findings in new research. That is, those whose papers are published will be asked to share anonymized data and measures to catalyze replication and deepen our understanding of the reliability and validity of the concepts and mechanisms. The field of education desperately needs sound conceptualizations of racism and oppression and a deeper understanding of their mechanisms of influence and protective factors. Further, researchers require access to reliable, valid, culturally sensitive measurement and research methods.

To address these concerns, *AERA Open* proposes a Call for a Special Topic on “Sources, Conceptualizations, and Mechanisms of Racism/Oppression Impacting Education-Related Outcomes and Well-Being Across the Lifespan.” The goal is to develop a strong collection of scientific articles, along with a repository of methods, measures, and data that will serve the field. The topics that will be considered for inclusion are broad, including (but not limited to) the following:

- Racial stress/trauma in education (measurement, student, educator, family and community perspectives)
- Racism/oppression as ACEs impacting health across the lifespan
- Intergenerational and historical racial trauma
- Effects of early childhood structural racism on educational trajectories
- Racism among individuals with multiple oppressed identities (women, LGBTQ, immigration status, etc.)
- Family and school-based racial socialization
- Educational and Workplace racial climate
- Disproportionate discipline and the School-to-Prison pipeline
- Measures/evaluation of Culturally Relevant Pedagogy implementation
- Implementation and evaluation of Anti-racist trainings
- Measures of racism/discrimination for broader range including colorism, experiences of multiracial, Asian, Latinx, Native/Indigenous, BIPOC individuals -between and within race/ethnic groups

- Diverse conceptualizations of the sources of racism (e.g., environmental racism, political disenfranchisement, Anti-Blackness, White supremacy culture, etc.)
- Police murders of BIPOC civilians and exposure to digital racial violence
- COVID-19, healthcare discrimination, racial health disparities
- Critical consciousness /sociopolitical development
- Community-Based Participatory Research (CBPR) and Youth Participatory Action Research (YPAR) antiracism initiatives
- Anti-BIPOC bias in curricula and educator preparation programs
- Education policy responses to racialized / xenophobic immigration policy

Interested authors should submit an abstract (no more than 500 words) describing their proposed manuscript. Editors will review and invite selected authors to submit full manuscripts for possible inclusion in the Special Topic. All manuscript submissions will go through peer review and meet the publication standards of *AERA Open*. An invitation to submit a full manuscript is not a guarantee of acceptance. Accepted manuscripts are subject to *AERA Open*'s one-time processing fee (see <https://us.sagepub.com/en-us/nam/journal/aera-open#submission-guidelines> for details).

Publication Timeline:

November 6, 2020: Submission deadline for abstracts (submit to AERAOpenEditors@aera.net)

December 1, 2020: Invitation to authors to submit manuscripts

May 1, 2021: Manuscripts due

Articles published as completed

Please direct questions regarding the Special Topic to racismspecialtopiceditors@gmail.com.

Please consult the *AERA Open* website (above) for general guidelines on manuscript submission.