

# Social work, whiteness and racism.

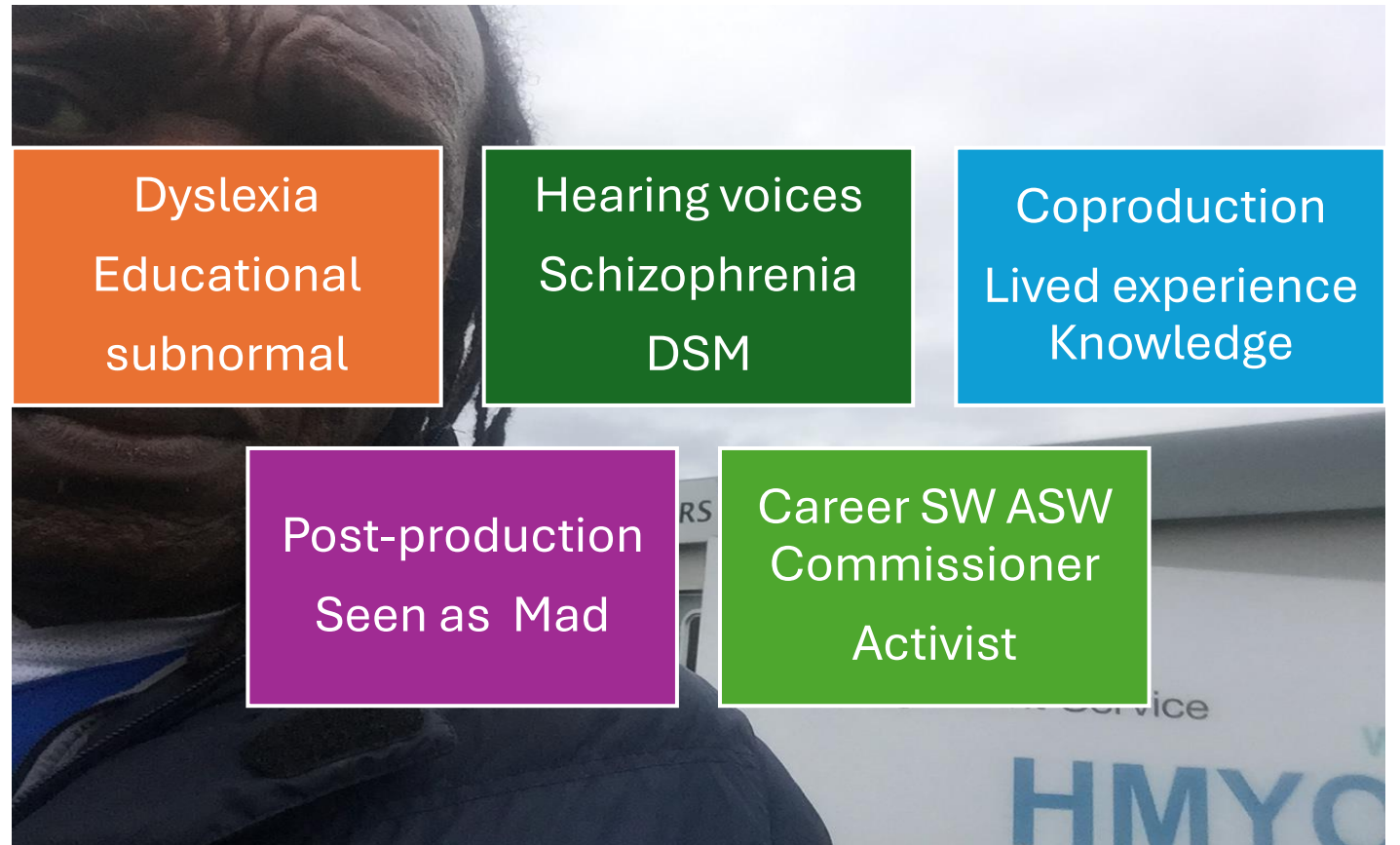
## Black Herstory month

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- Aims.
- 1. To outline the historical models as neo-liberal, Euro-centric and formed around notions of eugenic profiling as a psychosis of Whiteness.
- 2. To analyse how the business approach to mental health is based on fear, risk, and danger, notions of acute behavioural disturbance, captured in the notion of 'Drapetomania.'
- 3. The need for a new Lived experience, epistemological, and pedagogical research model as an antidote to biomedical whiteness in social work,



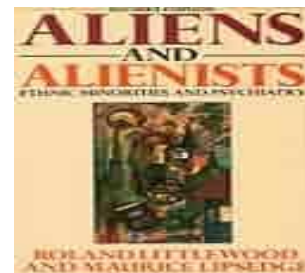
# Lived experience of cultural schizophrenia and mental health services from patient to practitioner.



The historical Eurocentric notions of eugenic racialised profiling as a psychosis of Whiteness, Littlewood and Lipsedge (1982), a form of ‘cultural schizophrenia’.

# 1. Pre-production stage whiteness

- Importance of Slavery as a detaching the reality/silence of the cultural other.
- This can be highlighted in Cartwright’s notion of ‘Drapetomania’
- Emergence of Eugenics, developed in educational, psychological and scientific racism as unconscious software in social work.
- Littlewood and Lipsedge (1981) ‘cultural schizophrenia’:



**R U N   A W A Y**

**THE 18th Instant at Night**  
from the Subscriber, in the City of New-York, four Negro Men, Viz. LESTER, about 40 Years of Age, had on a white Flannel Jacket and Drawers, Duck Trowsers and Home-spun Shirt. CÆSAR, about 18 Years of Age, clothed in the same Manner. ISAAC, aged 17 Years clothed in the same Manner, except that his Breeches were Leather; and MINGO, 15 Years of Age, with the the same Clothing as the 2 first, all of them of a middling Size, Whoever delivers either of the said Negroes to the Subscriber, shall receive **TWENTY SHILLINGS** Reward for each beside all reasonable Charges. If any person can give Intelligence of their being harbour'd, a reward of **TEN POUNDS** will be paid upon conviction of the Offender. All Masters of Vessels and others are forewarn'd not to Transport them from the City, as I am resolv'd to prosecute as far as the Law will allow.

**WILLIAM BULL.**  
N. B. If the Negroes return, they shall be pardon'd.      - 88

# Pre-production transition to social work and whiteness.

**Dominance of Eurocentric**

Cartwright – Body

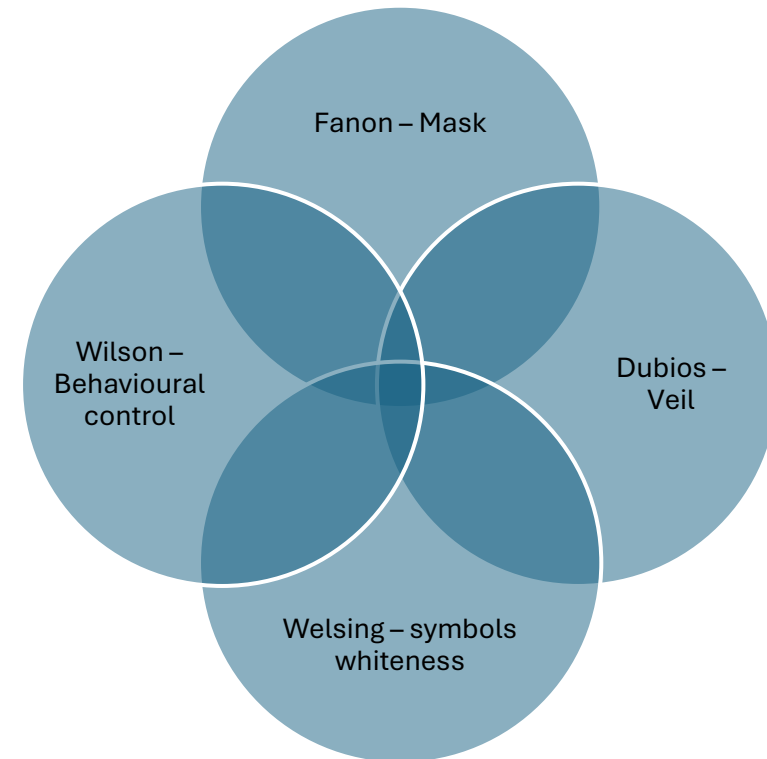
Jung/Freud – Mind/Eugenics

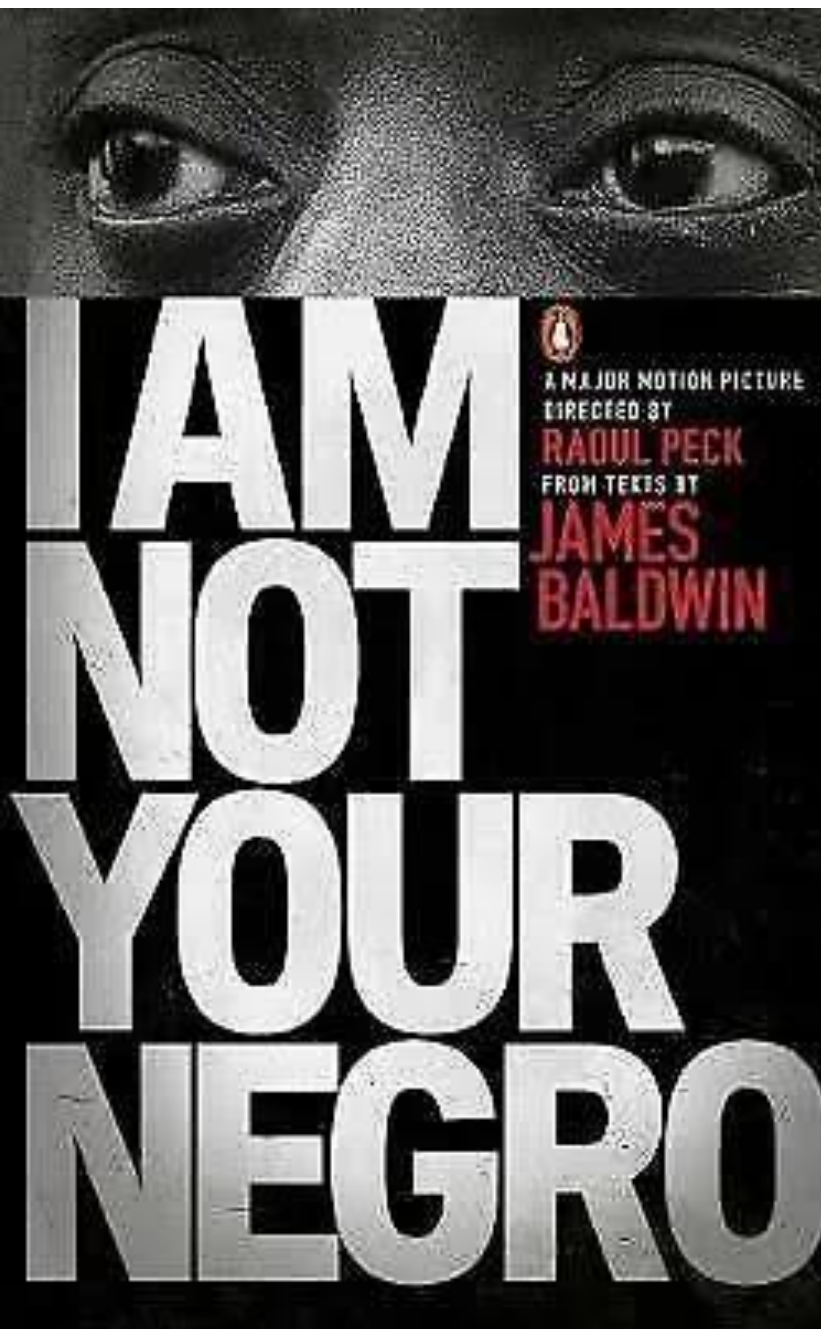
Bowlby – Cultural detachment

Burt - IQ

Kant – Philosophy of the other

**Denial of Afrocentric**





Historical challenges to whiteness in social work. Cultural competencies.

- ‘The brain of the Negro is superior to that of the Bushman, but still it does not reach the level of the white man’s brain; the weight of the male Negro’s brain is less than that of the average European female;’ (Maudsley, 1870 cited Bolton, 2022; p5).



# History of social work

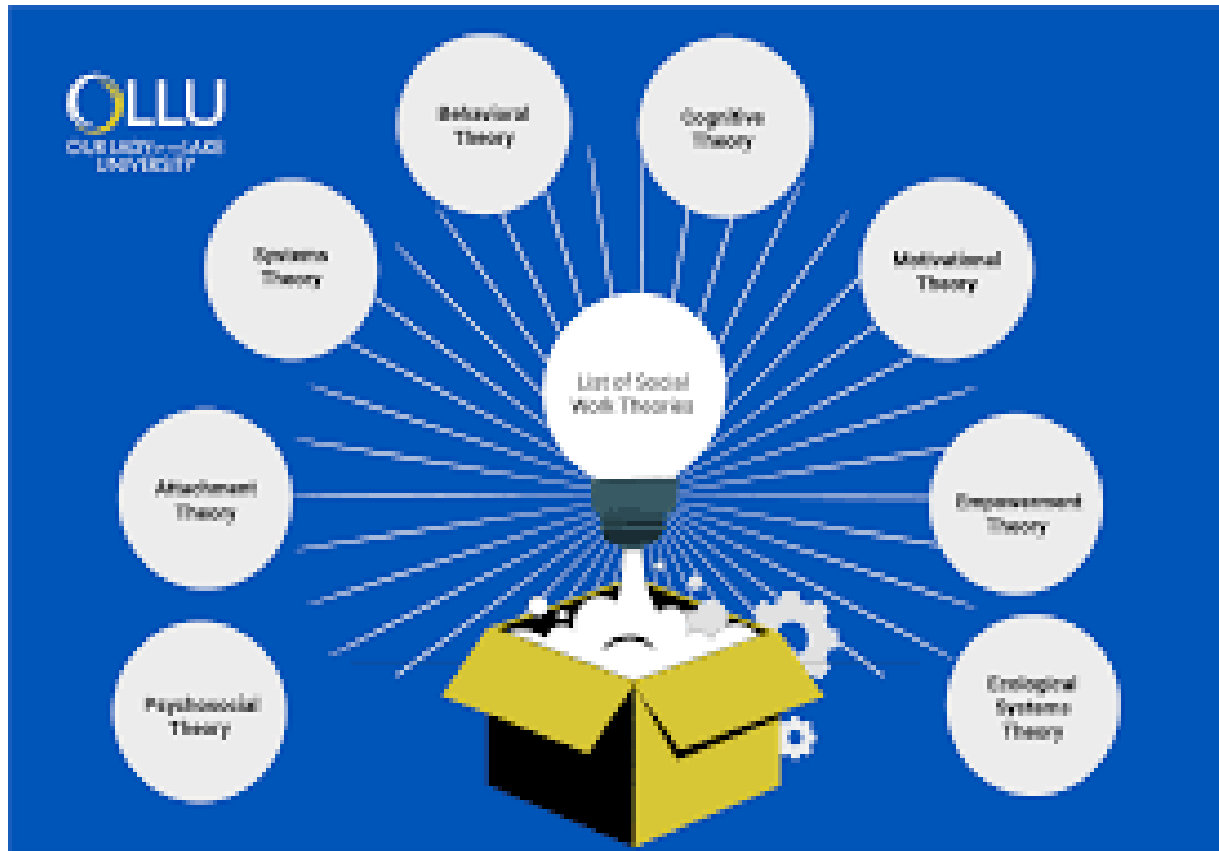
## Celebrating 100 Years of Social Work

University of Birmingham  
Ann Davis



- 500AD Church 1600 Poor Laws
- 1900-1928 Public body
- 1928-1948 SW training – Local government Act. Beveridge Welfare Depart social studies
- 1948-1968 – 1962 Council for training in social work
- 1968-88 Seebohm CQSW 1970 BASW
- 1988-2008 2003 General council SW Specialism (CA89MHA83)
- Social Work England.

# Eurocentric theories/Practices of Whiteness.



# Whiteness in social work

- The Whitewashing of Social Work History:
- How Dismantling Racism in Social Work
- Education Begins With an Equitable History of the Profession Kelechi C. Wright Kortney Angela Carr Becci A. Akin 2021
- Stories of Dismantling Whiteness in Social Work Educational Spaces Mohr 2022
- Social work England. Roles and Legislation
- Joyner 2015 Pedagogy dominance of whiteness
- Zimmerman et al 2019 dominant themes of whiteness
- Sleeter 2017 orientated to white learners
- Earick et 2018 reinforces privilege
- Shannon and Casey 2018 reluctance to engage Anti-racism
- Riabie and Irizzary 2007 Racialised white identity
- Seawright 2018 endorses models of race and normalcy
- Yosso 2015 2020 Whiteness capital



## **Whitewashing in social work and how to challenge it:**

[The Whitewashing of Social Work History](#)

[Undoing Racism Through Social Work](#)

[Indigenous Social Welfare: Decolonizing Social Work](#)

[Advancing Social Work Education Among the Latino Population](#)

## **Historical perspectives on harm and how to do better (video collection):**

[Social Work and Race: A Historical Perspective](#)

[Reducing Disparities Through Indigenous Social Work Education](#)

[Black Reformers and White Supremacist Beliefs](#)

## **A legacy of influential BIPOC social workers:**

[Social Workers Past and Present Who Shape the Profession](#)

[Black Brilliance in Social Work and Beyond](#)

[Those Who Lead the Field in Research and Practice](#)

[Hispanic Pioneers in Social Work](#)

# Mental health, whiteness and racialised impact analysis.



Governance of modern slavery

**MENTAL HEALTH AND BLACK CUSTODY POLICE DEATHS**

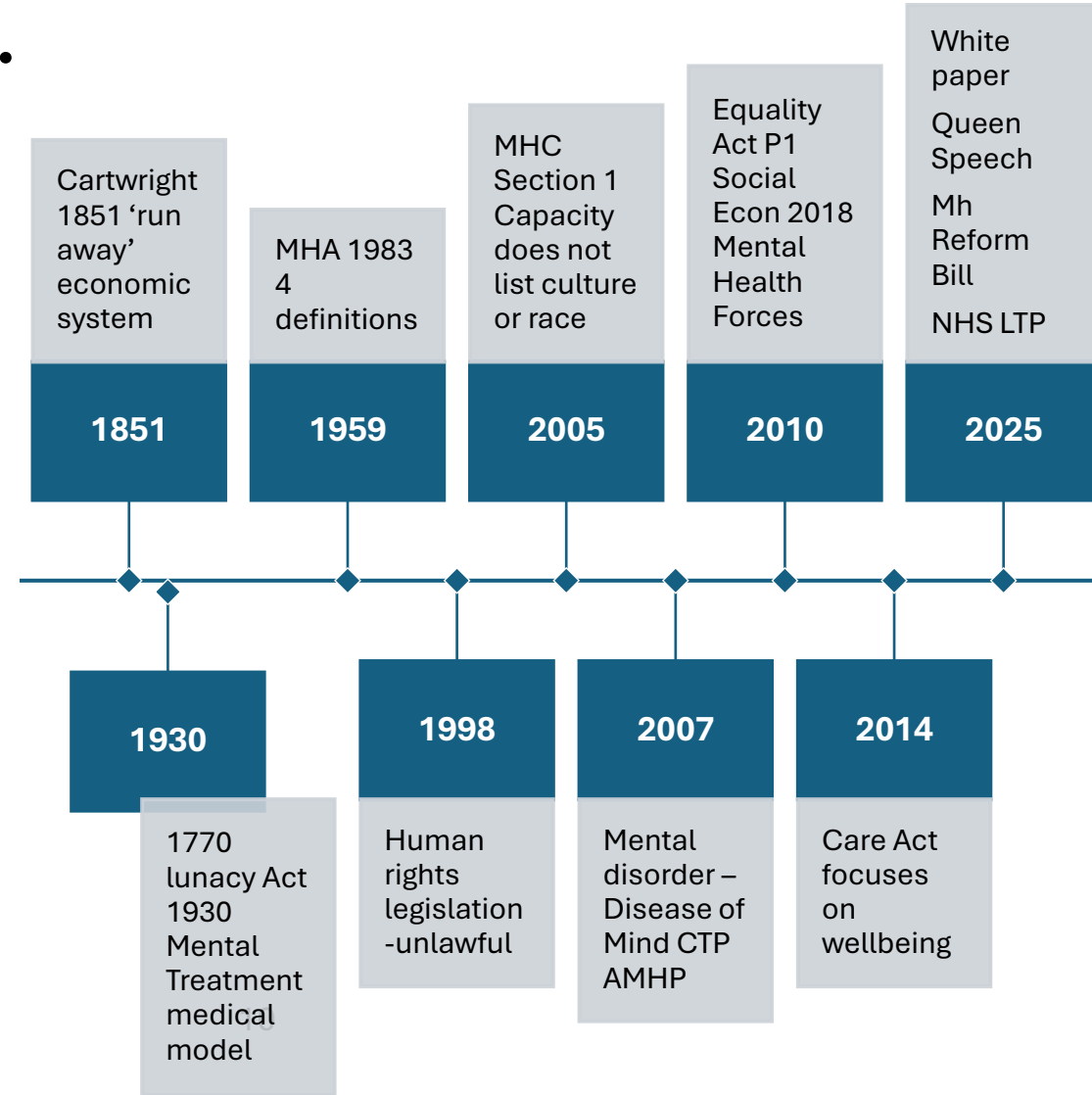
INSTITUTE OF RACE RELATIONS

Jenny Bourne

Research has not liberated or saved black men's life.

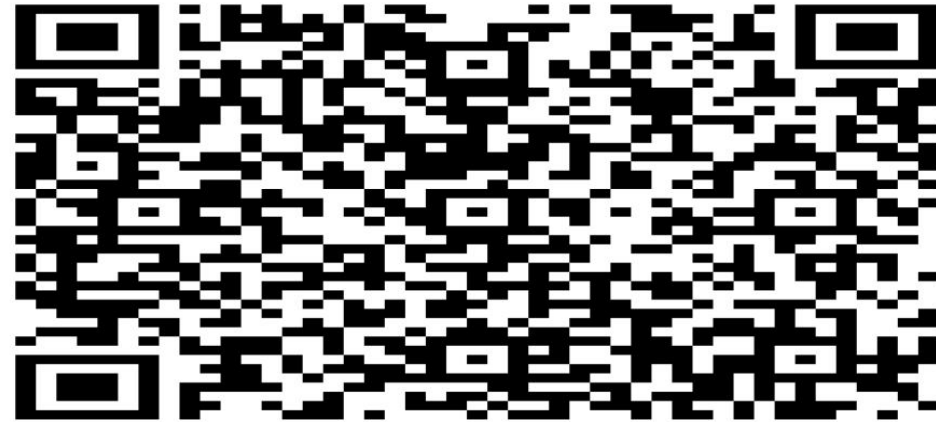
NHS - reparation.

Culture of slavery



# The survey.

**Social work, race and Mental  
Health**



# Current ethnicity data.

- 18% of practitioners whose ethnicity was known were from Black, Asian, or minority ethnic (BAME) groups.
- This was lower than the 22% in children's and 25% in adults' social care at the same time.
- Asian social workers, at 5%,

- We need to plan to elevate the voices and perspectives of people with lived experience. We need to see lived experience leadership on a par with clinical leadership and to move towards co-production, co-delivery and co-evaluation. Wellbeing report, 2022 P5

# Race and racism in mental health and Social work. ABD.

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Eleven times more likely to be diagnosed with schizophrenia.

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Five times more likely to be compulsorily admitted.

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Eleven times more likely to be placed on CTO.



The fear and  
implications for  
Social work.  
Clunis to Calocane.  
Business culture of  
modern slavery



Competency.  
How we see  
the world from  
our past.  
Colin.



# Psychiatry and Race . American Psychiatric Association.

1. As part of the changes implemented in DSM-5-TR is the use of language that challenges the view that races are discrete and natural entities:
  - The term “racialized” is used instead of “race/racial” to highlight the socially constructed nature of race.
  - The term “ethnoracial” is used in the text to denote the U.S. Census categories, such as Hispanic, White, or African American, that combine ethnic and racialized identifiers.
  - The terms “minority” and “non-White” are avoided because they describe social groups in relation to a racialised “majority,” a practice that tends to perpetuate social hierarchies.
  - The term Caucasian is not used because it is based on obsolete and erroneous views about the geographic origin of a prototypical pan-European ethnicity.

Anti racist social work represents the Politicisation of Anti racism and whiteness. Macpherson 1999 Unwitting.



## Stokely Carmichael (1967)

- Institutional racism is a form of racism expressed in the practice of social and political institutions. Institutional racism is also racism by individuals or informal social groups, governed by behavioural norms that support racist thinking and foment active racism.
- It is reflected in disparities regarding wealth, income, criminal justice, employment, housing, health care, political power and education, among other factors. The term "institutional racism" was coined and first used in 1967.
- Bromberg 1968, Metz 2009, Schizophrenia as a black disease.

## Black Power



48. Stokely Carmichael addresses meeting, (Michael X, black activist, second left) London, 1970.

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# Anti-racism perspectives impact analysis.

Anti-Racist perspective period.	Role AMHP. Role as an advocate.	Impact on power/parity racialized Lived experience.
1965-1975 RRA – Critical race theory – Radical social work.	Advocate of the state.	Increased Admission.
Amendment RRA 2000. Commercial business structure.	Advocate of Social/Medical models. Stone 2019.	Increased Admissions.
Equality Act 2010 Inter-connections Inclusion – Diversity -	Advocate of race and other protective characteristics.	Increased Admissions.
Anti-racism – Not race equality Bureaucratization of race	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advance choice documents,</li> <li>• Statutory care and treatment plans,</li> <li>• Independent Mental Health Advocates.</li> <li>• Cultural competency</li> <li>• PCREF</li> </ul>	Increased Admissions.

To analyse how mental health is based on fear, risk, and danger, notions of acute behavioural disturbance, captured in the notion of 'Drapetomania,' are activated through the case studies of Clunis and Calocane, the misguided notion of race, and lived experience and emergence of white supremacy.

Lack of investment in Lived Experience.

MHA- 3million.

No senior black researchers.

NHS Staff/ Restrictive practices.

MH Units/RNN/+ White.

**NIHR** | National Institute for Health and Care Research

Project 1. Professor Joy Duxbury OBE, Professor of Mental Health Manchester Metropolitan University, experiences black men in mental health system.

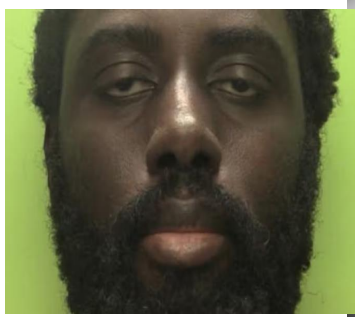
Project 2. Professor Kamaldeep Bhui and Dr Roisin Mooney at the University of Oxford using photography to capture their experiences of compulsory admission,

Project 3. Professor Sonia Johnson and Dr Brynmor Lloyd-Evans at University College London will adapt a successful approach to crisis planning to reduce compulsory admission

Project 4. Mind research – observation of research. Mainly white RNN –Restrictive Practice – NFA Marginalization black experience/Knowledge/Parity

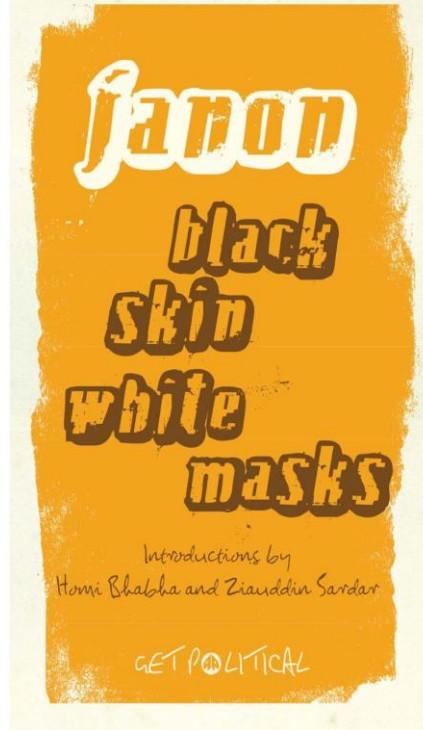
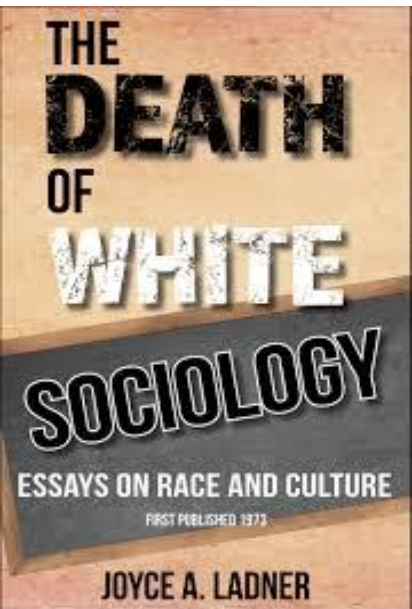


# Legacy of DRAPETOMANIA King.



THEY DIAGNOSED ME A 'SCHIZOPHRENIC WHEN I WAS REALLY A GEMINI.





Impact on Lived experience and Anti-racism.

Lived Experience emerges.  
Mad Studies is a field of scholarship, theory, and activism about the lived experiences, history, cultures, and politics about people who may identify as mad, mentally ill, psychiatric survivors, consumers, service users, patients, neurodivergent, and disabled.



# Mental Health Use of Forces Act 2018/2021 linked PCREF.

1. Key definition.

2. Mental Health units responsible person.

3. Policy on use of force.

4. Information use of force.

5. Training appropriate use force.

6. Recording use of force.

9. Investigation of deaths and serious injuries.

10. Delegation of RP function.

## Race impact analysis.



Areas work.	Evidence.	Future work focus on Lived experience.
<p>Patient voice. Section 1  <b>Section 3</b> –  Treatment/therapeutic plan  <b>Section 117</b> – Community  therapeutic plan.</p>	<p>PCREF advocates.  Patient surveys  Patient impact statement</p>	<p>Patient Advocate training.  Patient voice Lived experience  model.  Lived experience peer support  model.  Lived experienced Clinical training.</p>
<p>Cultural Awareness. Section 2  Staff Knowledge &amp; Awareness.  •Partnership Working.  •Co-production.  •Workforce-learning.</p>	<p>Cultural theories.  Embedded in practice from  assessment, inpatient pathway.  Focus on diagnosis, medication,  Lived experienced interventions</p>	<p>Clinical training.  Nurses Training  Sen’s Law training.  Joint Lived experience and peer  supporting module.</p>
<p>Leadership Gov. Section 3.  The Mental Health Units (Use of  Force) Act 2018 record data.  Section 5 a</p>	<p>Lived Experience Representation.  Patient Voice on board –Data.  Patient design of therapy</p>	<p>Lived experience allyship model  with clinicians.  .</p>

# Unmasking Social work values (mirror).

Values - Learning	Challenging learning - models	Shared models to make black lives matter in mental health systems
Historical values	Depoliticise to politicise values from pre-production period.	Recognizing and valuing alternative (Afro-centric) values
Personal values	Making conscious racialized values – implicit to the explicit	Culture of declaring impact of values as lived experience in race equality
Professional values	Duty of racialised care to change and challenge models of learning	Challenge of personal values that may led to new eugenics in mental heath system
Research values	Challenging contradiction of protective characteristic values – whiteness.	Unconscious oppositional values.
Practice values	Theories, methods, approaches	Need for equality in mental health systems and practices.

**Race as lived experience has no parity power.  
Racialised in our Diagnostic framework  
Bromberg 1968 Metz 2009  
DSM-5. ICD-11 –**



Cultural restraint - who is this – listen to the tape



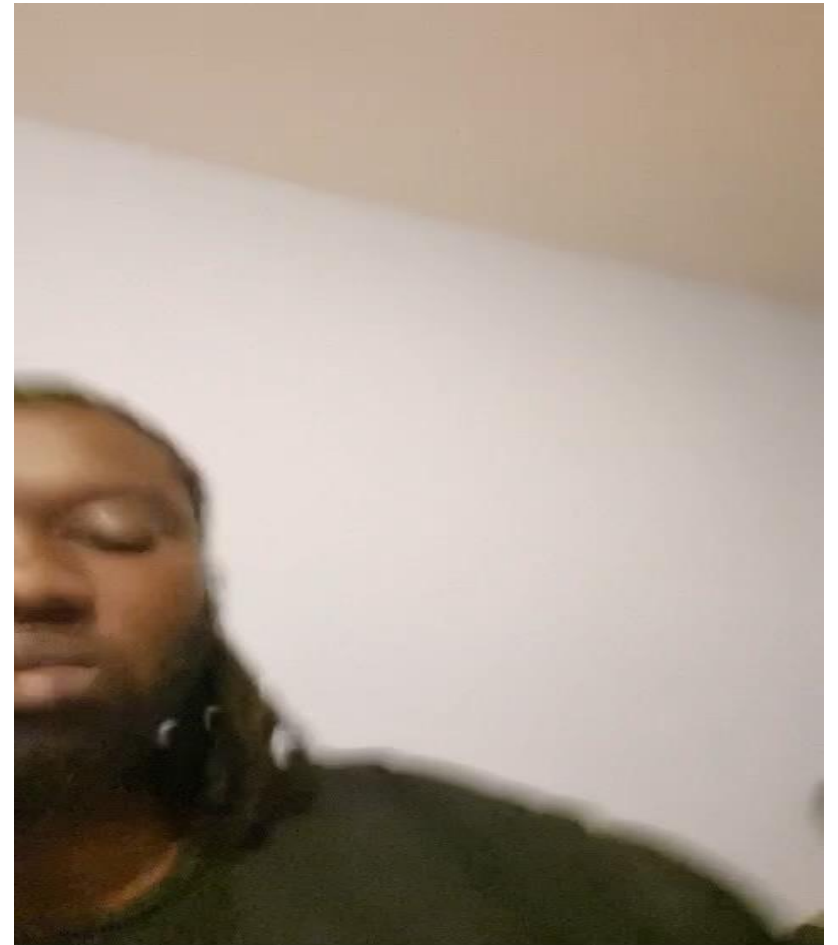
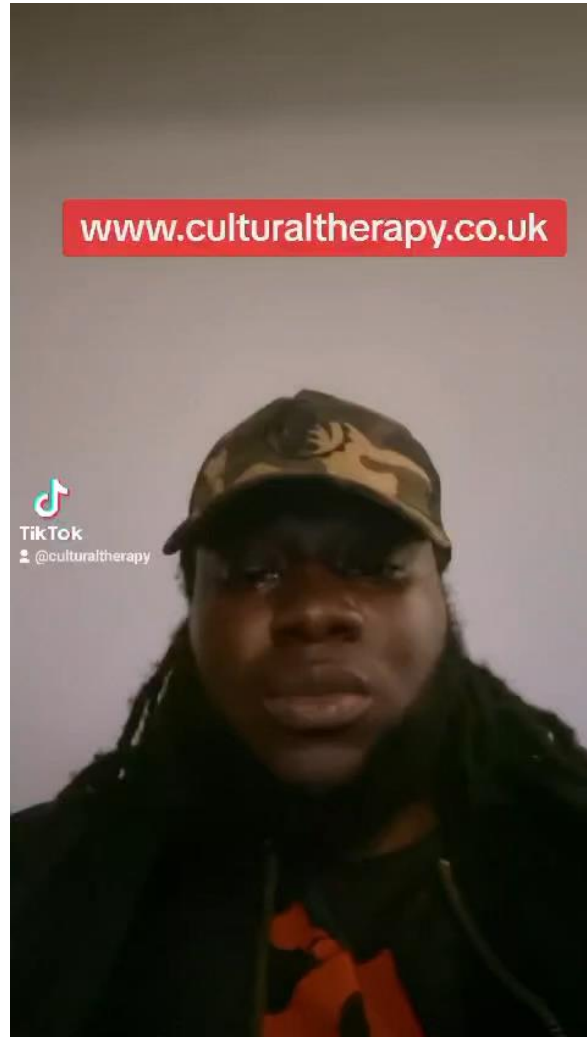
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# What are your challenges for social work? Colin

 Mentimeter

No question was selected for this slide.

Racialization  
of acute  
behavioral  
disturbance.



# Anti-racist AMHP/SW Professional standards.

Responses to Legislation	AMPH/SW Role	Accountability Framework
Decriminalization MHA.- Abolition of Section 1.	Challenge culturally inappropriate assessments (Section papers).	Lived experience checks/signs. Police/Psychiatrist/AMHP/paper.
Challenge powers of 136. Seni-Law center use of 136 suites.	Lived experience POS Hubs	Integrated Lived experience models 136 Assessments.
Principles of assessment – Most beneficial – Liberation – Race autonomy - .	Focus on the cultural strength model of assessment.	Challenge Euro-centric bias, developing a joint Lived Experience cultural risk model.
Section 2 Cultural needs lead Section 3 – Culturally relevant interventions.	Assess need not service. Challenge Euro-tric models of treatment.	Lived experience Advocates Lived experience Treatment guidance.
Abolition of Community Treatment orders. Cultural care plans.	Unify to repeal – King (2021) <small>Social work, whiteness and racism, 21.10.25 Copyrights</small>	Lived experience guidance /Panel

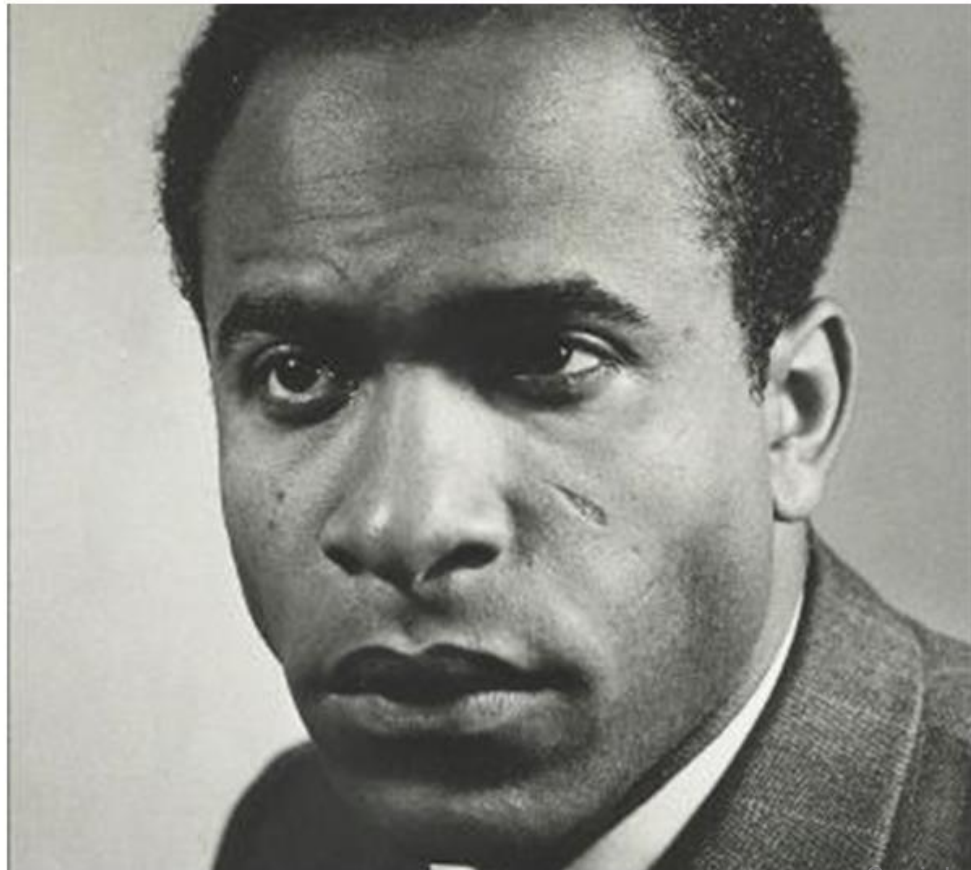
Lived experience,  
epistemological, and  
pedagogical research

Peer review framework, to  
censor and monitor the  
impact of research on race  
equality, through the  
Whiteness and Race  
Equality Network, Seni's  
Law, and The Lancet  
Psychiatry.

- Whiteness and Race Equality  
Net work **Simon**.
- To empower racialised  
communities with Lived  
experience globally.
- To ensure equity and equality  
between psychiatry and Lived  
experience.
- To develop peer review models  
that radically challenge  
research, publications and  
practice in areas of race and  
mental illness.
- To redress the  
overrepresentation of racialised  
communities and the historical  
theories that lead to  
misdiagnosis.
- To ensure that Peer Review  
supports Seni Law and cultural  
competencies.



Follow up reading  
These authors may be  
useful to you in exploring  
issues round equality.



Frantz Fanon –Black skin, Whirte Mask

WEB DuBois– The Souls of black folk

Frances Cress Welsing –The Cress theory  
of Color

bel hooks Class Matters

Joy Ladner ,The Death of White Sociology

