

## Decolonizing the Psychology Curriculum: Selected Resources

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### Key Terms in the Presentation

Definitions obtained from the Merriam-Webster Dictionary unless otherwise indicated.

1. **Axiology:** the study of the nature, types, and criteria of values and of value judgments especially in ethics.
2. **Colonization:** an act or instance of colonizing; to create a colony in or on (a place); to take control of (an area) and send people to live there.
3. **Curriculum:** a set of courses constituting an area of specialization.
4. **Decolonization:** to free from colonial status.
5. **Disciplinary Decadence:** “the phenomenon of turning away from living thought, which engages reality and recognises its own limitations, to a deontologised or absolute conception of disciplinary life.” (Gordon, 2014, p. 86).
6. **Epistemology:** the study or a theory of the nature and grounds of knowledge especially with reference to its limits and validity.
7. **Hegemony:** the social, cultural, ideological, or economic influence exerted by a dominant group.
8. **Imperialism:** the extension or imposition of power, authority, or influence.
9. **Liberalism/Liberal Politics:** a political philosophy based on belief in progress, the essential goodness of the human race, and the autonomy (see AUTONOMY sense 2) of the individual and standing for the protection of political and civil liberties; such a philosophy that considers government as a crucial instrument for amelioration of social inequities (such as those involving race, gender, or class).
10. **Liberation Psychology:** “the use of psychological approaches to understand and address oppression among individuals and groups” (Martín-Baró, 1994, as cited in Torres Rivera & Comas-Díaz, 2020, p. 3).
11. **Ontology:** a branch of metaphysics concerned with the nature and relations of being; a particular theory about the nature of being or the kinds of things that have existence.
12. **Oppression:** unjust or cruel exercise of authority or power.

13. **Paradigm:** a philosophical and theoretical framework of a scientific school or discipline within which theories, laws, and generalizations and the experiments performed in support of them are formulated.
14. **Paradigm Shift:** an important change that happens when the usual way of thinking about or doing something is replaced by a new and different way.
15. **Pedagogy:** the action or process of educating or of being educated.
16. **White Supremacy:** (1) the belief that the white race is inherently superior to other races and that white people should have control over people of other races. (2) the social, economic, and political systems that collectively enable white people to maintain power over people of other races

## Suggested Readings

- Collins, L. H., Machizawa, S., & Rice, J. K. (2019). *Transnational psychology of women*. American Psychological Association.
- Comas-Díaz, L. E., & Rivera, T. (2020). *Liberation psychology: Theory, method, practice, and social justice*. American Psychological Association.
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<https://doi.org/10.1037/0022-3514.94.2.292>
- Goodman, R. D., & Gorski, P. C. (Eds.). (2014). Decolonizing “multicultural” counseling through social justice. Springer.
- Gordon, L. R. (2014). Disciplinary decadence and the decolonisation of knowledge. *Africa Development*, *39*(1), 81-92.
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- Joseph Mbembe, A. (2016). Decolonizing the university: New directions. *Arts and Humanities in Higher Education*, 15(1), 29-45. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1474022215618513>
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- Quijano, A. (2000). Coloniality of power, eurocentrism, and Latin American. *Nepantla: Views from South*, 1.3, 533-580.
- Roberts, S. O., & Rizzo, M. T. (2020). The psychology of American racism. *American Psychologist*. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1037/amp0000642>
- Rosado, R. Q. (2007). *Consciousness-in-Action: Toward an integral psychology of liberation & transformation*: Lulu. com.
- Saucier, P. K. (2016). A reflection on ethnographic practice. In P. K. Saucier & T. P. Woods (Eds.), *Conceptual Aphasia in Black: Displacing Racial Formation* (pp. 51-68). Lanham: Lexington Books.
- Resources List Suggested by Conference Organizers:
- Castillo-Montoya, M., Abreu, J., & Abad, A. (2019) Racially liberatory pedagogy: A Black Lives Matter approach to education, *International Journal of Qualitative Studies in Education*, 32(9), 1125-1145. DOI: 10.1080/09518398.2019.1645904
- Goodman R. et al. (2015) Decolonizing traditional pedagogies and practices in counseling and psychology education: A move towards social justice and action. In R. Goodman, and P. Gorski (eds), *Decolonizing "Multicultural" Counseling through Social Justice*. International and Cultural Psychology. Springer, New York, NY. [https://doi.org/10.1007/978-1-4939-1283-4\\_11](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-1-4939-1283-4_11)
- Johnson, W. B., Barnett, J. E., Elman, N. S., Forrest, L., Schwartz-Mette, R., & Kaslow, N. J. (2014). Preparing trainees for lifelong competence: Creating a communitarian training culture. *Training and Education in Professional Psychology*, 8(4), 211-220.
- Mallinckrodt, B., Miles, J. R., & Levy, J. L. (2014). The scientist-practitioner-advocate model: Addressing contemporary training needs for social justice advocacy. *Training and Education in Professional Psychology*, 8, 303-311.

- Olle, C. D. (2018). Breaking institutional habits: A critical paradigm for social change agents in psychology. *The Counseling Psychologist*, 46, 190-212.
- Toporek, R. L. & Vaughn, S. R. (2010). Social justice in the training of professional psychologists: Moving forward. *Training and Education in Professional Psychology*, 4(3). 177–182.

## **Curriculum Mapping**

Where in the curriculum do your students learn:

1. The history of psychology that acknowledges contributions to capitalism and oppression
2. To examine the ways in which colonization established social hierarchies that affect psychological science today
3. To understand the influence of how the structure of humanity (ontology) influences research, teaching, and practice
4. Varied methodologies rooted in diverse epistemologies
5. To interrogate the psychology of individuals in concert with the social, historical and economic context
6. Psychology's role in dismantling oppression
7. To perceive, (re)cognize, understand, and respond to power and privilege in psychology