

OUTLOOK ON WHITENESS:

What comes next?

Since the start of the decade there's been a minor explosion in the growth of awareness about whiteness. The Center itself emerged from this wave of awakened consciousness. Now the concerned practitioner has to ask, What's happened lately?

Not much, it seems. The growth in awareness of whiteness is still trending upwards, but the brilliant revelations and the groundbreaking practices of the early 1990s seem to have lost their edge. More people are involved, but the involvement itself is more prosaic than even a year or two ago. Now that the word "whiteness" is out there in something more than a detergent commercial, the actual practice of confronting and changing whiteness seems to be losing its focus.

Will there be a 4th National Conference on Whiteness in 1999?

As we go to press with this newsletter, our crystal ball is very cloudy. Following the conference last year in Chicago it seemed clear we would have a fourth conference. Among the hopeful signs was the fact that we had three separate expressions of interest from people wanting to host this year's conference. We also had a conference planning committee intact, ready to begin planning the next event.

We met as a committee in early March. By then the offers to host the conference seem to have evaporated or proven to not be appropriate to the task at hand. We also experienced some dissatisfaction with the traditional conference model. While many people might be encouraged to come to such a conference, it wasn't clear to us how this translates into effective social change. At the heart of it, that's our goal. We felt a need to support the efforts of people with a history of activism around issues of white awareness and dismantling whiteness.

This led to the idea of producing a smaller event for people who have an awareness of race and racism, and particularly the role of whiteness. People with a demonstrated commitment to eliminating white supremacy. We wanted to invite men and

Appearances coming up

National Conference on Peacemaking and Conflict Resolution

*Phoenix, Arizona
May 28 through June 1*

We'll be doing two sessions of our *Learning How to Talk about Whiteness* workshop, facilitating the European American caucus, and convening a plenary panel on whiteness on the morning of June 1. Panelists are Noel Ignatiev, Judith Katz and Lowell Thompson.

**The National Multicultural Institute
Fourteenth Annual National Conference**

*Washington, DC
June 4*

The Center will offer a 1-day workshop on Decentering Whiteness to Create a Multiracial Society.

Doing something? Want to get the word out?

Are you doing something on the topic of whiteness, racial justice, antiracism, multiracial community building, or any of many topics related to the Center's mission? Would you like to let other members know about it? Send us information about your event, your research, your practices—anything you'd like to tell other members. We'll gladly include them here in our Member Newsletter. The connection is you. If you are a member, and you're involved in some work you believe is worthwhile, we'll help get the word out to other members.

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women representing a spectrum of races, classes, religious traditions, ages and countries of origin, taking care to balance this with men and women who have differing expertise and areas of interest in society.

Our plans are to take this group of 80 people through a two-day series of structured exercises designed to elicit and record strategies and tactics for promoting the awareness of whiteness. The plan includes producing a report of the conference findings for distribution, and possibly a video as well.

The Boston contingent of our planning group has agreed to host the conference, and thus the logistical task of planning falls upon them. In the weeks since our March planning meeting they have met with our intended facilitator of large group processes and found they need to consider what approach will work best for the questions at hand. One issue under discussion is whether to focus on the local Boston area or to look at whiteness in a more generalized way.

The current plans, while holding promise of moving events forward, raise several concerns. It's too early to do anything but name them. Among the concerns are that, in the process as now envisioned, the role for people outside of Boston is unclear. Second, if the event takes place, it will draw upon resources originally intended for the 4th National Conference on Whiteness, and at this time there are no plans for holding another conference event this year or thereafter. Third, the question of how people will be chosen to participate, by invitation or application, remains to be decided.

What will come of this, we don't know. We will continue to work with the process and represent a view that it should have import for the rest of the country even if on the spot participation is not possible for everyone. We have also suggested that the process of choosing who to attend should allow applications as well as invitations so that the opportunity might be open to people who might not otherwise be known to the planners.

It looks as if there will not be a 4th conference this year in the traditional sense. The Center does not have the resources to do a conference event on its own, and there are no immediate partners in sight for setting up a new conference process. However, the "Boston experiment" is an interesting concept. We've been feeling things were getting a little quiet. It's time to begin operating on the system in a more dramatic way, and this might be a good way to start.

If a national conference is still needed, and we believe it is, then maybe we can set our sights on the year 2000. Perhaps the experiment in Boston will develop some support for a conference in the millennium year. We'll keep you posted.

What White People Can Do About Racism Workshop to be held 5-7 May, 1999.

Judith Katz, author of the pioneering book, *White Awareness: Handbook for Anti-Racism Training* will be facilitating a workshop exploring white people's role, responsibilities and challenges in addressing racism in our lives, communities and organizations. The workshop is being sponsored by The Kaleel Jamison Consulting Group.

A 15% discount is available to members of the Center for the Study of White American Culture. Registration fee is \$400 (\$340 with the discount). To register or to find out more information contact Caryn Cook at 518. 271. 7000 or caryncook@kjcg.com

Getting our name out there

Since our last newsletter, we've heard from the BBC-Channel 4, the Boston ABC television affiliate, and the Los Angeles Times. ABC and the BBC were looking for contacts in their viewership areas and we were able to help them out. We also heard from The Pikanii Sun, who said they will do a short story on us. According to their communication with us, "The Pikanii Sun is a news and culture journal meant to inform the people of the Blackfoot Nations in Alberta, Canada and Montana, USA. We also include their relatives and friends worldwide in our audience. Pikanii is an ancient name for what is popularly called the Blackfoot or Blackfeet."

Whiteness Listserv

The Whiteness Listserv is now underway with a small but growing group of participants. The Whiteness Listserv is a members-only program of the Center. In recent weeks topics have included whiteness in Australia, assimilation to whiteness by other racial/cultural groups, and several other topics, messages and announcements.

Web update

www.euroamerican.org, the Center's web site, continues to grow. We've averaged 40 visits per day since the start of the year, and over fifty per day in the month of March. We're in the midst of a semi-annual update. If you haven't stopped by for a while, check it out.

Members - new and renewing

Our membership continues to grow. We'd like to thank the following members for their generosity:

Students

Chris Brittan-Powell	Norma Smith
Carole Langworthy	Debra Tollas
Kelly Reineke	

Contributors

Harry Brod	Ric MacDowell
Linda Brooks	Ian White Maher
Phyllis Labanowski	Kim O'Reilly

Supporters

Sherle L. Boone	Sharon C. Price
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As a benefit to our members, we offer this listing from our growing bibliographic database on whiteness and white American culture. Members are free to reproduce this listing for their own purposes.

Dissertations: 1973 - 1997+

Topics: whiteness, white privilege, white culture, white racism and antiracism for white people.

Sorted by year, and author within year.

DAI = Dissertation Abstracts International

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