



An Introduction to Anti- Racism Lawyering

By Ife Thompson Founder of BLAM UK
and Black Protest Legal Support UK

UNDERSTANDING RACISM/ WHITE SUPREMACY

What do we mean by this term ?

1. White supremacy is a system of structural and societal racism that is reproduced by all the institutions of our society. For example, in the media, education, science, justice system and policing.
2. White supremacy is often furthered under the notion of 'White Privilege' in that, these systems benefit and privilege peoples that are white.

Under this system of White Supremacy 'whiteness is a Social power that masquerades as an ethnicity' - Zaron Burnett III

DECENTRING YOURSELF- PARTICULARLY IF YOU ARE WHITE

**By centering yourself you are actively marginalising your Black, Brown/
racialised clients.**

Centering yourself looks like- focusing topics only you like or feel comfortable with, even if it may not be best for your Clients

Centering feelings of white guilt - DiAngelo writes, white people cling to the notion of racial innocence, a form of weaponised denial that positions Black people as the “havers” of race and the guardians of racial knowledge.

Whiteness, on the other hand, scans as invisible, default, a form of racelessness. “Color blindness,” the argument that race shouldn’t matter, prevents us from grappling with how it does.

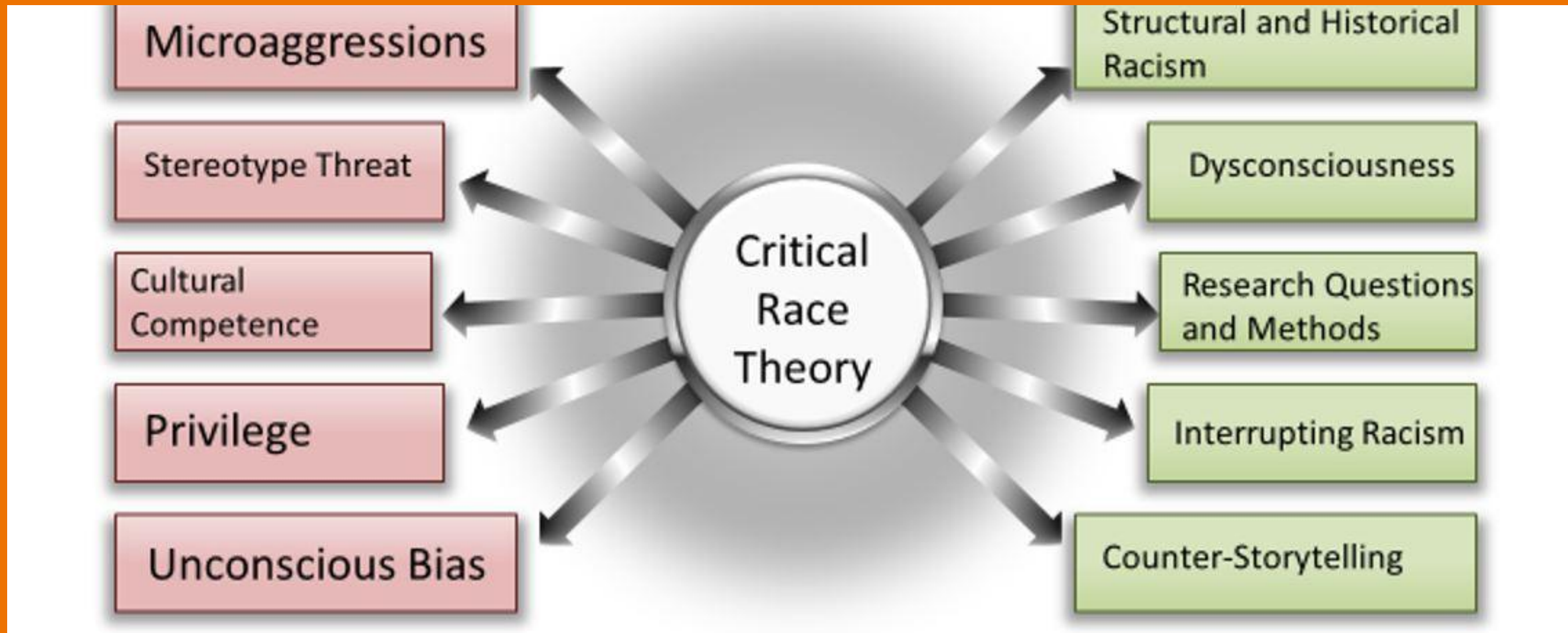
CRITICAL RACE THEORY

Critical Race Theory is suggested by UK education academics as a great starting point to understanding Anti- Racism.

(CRT) is already well established in the USA, might provide a useful perspective in the UK, due to it's theorisation of racism, and it's identification of whiteness

CRITICAL RACE THEORY

Critical race theories combine progressive political struggles for racial justice with critiques of the conventional legal and scholarly norms which are themselves viewed as part of the illegitimate hierarchies that need to



CRITICAL RACE THEORY

Scholars, most of whom are themselves persons of color, challenge the ways that race and racial power are constructed by law and culture.

One key focus of critical race theorists is a regime of white supremacy and privilege maintained despite the rule of law and the Equality Law frameworks. Critical theorists and many feminists see that the that law itself is not a neutral tool but instead part of the problem, critical race scholars identify inadequacies of conventional legal frameworks.

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Issue with colour blindness

You are supposed to act like race does not exist when it does- Mental Gymnastics.

When you remove race from the discussion- you remove the experiences of racailised groups !!

BLACK PROTEST LEGAL SUPPORT & BLAM UK

**Education is key you cannot change what you do not
know about.**

**BPLS shows that there is a willingness from
practitioners to seek change and champion racial
justice**

CRITICAL RACE THEORY- INTEREST DIVERGANCE

Derrick Bell's concept of 'interest-convergence' argues that moments of racial progress are won when White power-holders perceive self-interest in accommodating the demands of minoritised groups; such moments are unusual and often short-lived.

Presently, often we witness the reverse of this process; a period of pronounced interest-divergence, when White power-holders imagine that a direct advantage will accrue from the further exclusion and oppression of Black groups in society. Behind rhetoric that proclaims the need to improve standards for all and celebrates a commitment to closing the existing gaps; while in there are reforms are being enacted that systematically disadvantage Black people and demonstrably widen inequalities.

DR MARTIN GLYNN- CRIMINOLOGIST / THEATRE DIRECTOR

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=td2dk1Su2Sg> - Copy link into youtube or search Dr Martin Glynn- Silenced



RECOMMENDATIONS

What happens next

1. Understand and learn frameworks from a Critical Race Theory viewpoint - this means being open to challenging things, asking why certain practices have been accepted as the norm?
2. Find better alternatives that involve and centre your Black clients
3. You will have to do the reading, areas of focus are understanding the History of Racism
4. Commit to become Anti- Racist it is a life long commitment of unlearning

Follow up reading- Dr Joy Degruy -Please copy into browser

https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Eileen_Brennan3/publication/267690909_Racial_Respect_and_Racial_Socialization_as_Protective_Factors_for_African_American_Male_Youth/links/546624c60cf2f5eb18016692.pdf

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rorgjdvphek>

Critical Race Theory -

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5441df7ee4b02f59465d2869/t/5d8e9fdec6720c0557cf55fa/1569628126531/DELGAD0++Critical+Race+Theory.pdf>

