Anti-Racist Education
Selected Resources from the OISE Library


This compilation of Indigenous perspectives proposes a harmonic, interdisciplinary approach to education in which traditional knowledge is re-centered into American school buildings and curriculums. Using the framework of “Four Directions”, this book balances reflection and action through discussion on several topics including historical trauma, American history, anti-Indianism and a wide range of school subjects.

Indigenous Focus I K-12


This compilation of Rethinking Schools magazine’s best articles discuss culture and identity through themes such as anti-racism, language, power, multiculturalism, and race in the classroom. Containing 40 articles, this anthology positions multiculturalism within the context of social justice education.

Philosophy & Pedagogy I K-12


For educators seeking to understand the history of Indigenous knowledge and learning in a Eurocentric society, this book traces the impacts of assimilative education, racism, and failed educational policies for Indigenous populations. Battiste proposes a new model for education in which Indigenous knowledge is revitalized and preserved, providing teachers and scholars with a comprehensive introduction and analysis of colonization in education.

Indigenous Focus I History


Composed of current research, as well as the personal experience of the authors, Racialized Schools provides educators with data and accounts centering the prevalence of racism in contemporary classrooms, while empowering educators to both address racism in their classrooms and teaching philosophy, as well as actively incorporate preventative strategies into their classroom culture. A combined theoretical and practical tool for education professionals.

Philosophy & Pedagogy I Action I Black Focus

Critical Race Theory has emerged in growing popularity – and rightfully so! More and more researchers, from a huge range of disciplines, are examining critical issues of racial justice in education from this perspective. This text brings together current research and provides examples and models – assisting readers in navigating the often-swept-over how of Critical Race Theory.

Multiplication is for White People: Raising Expectations for Other People’s Children by Lisa Delpit. Perseus, 2012. 379.260973 D363M.

Delpit explores and reveals the ways in which the achievement gap that exists for poor children of colour is a result of various facets of contemporary education that consistently fail these students. Delpit looks at the reform work that has been done in recent years, and the ways that they have fallen short in providing for these students. Divided by chapters covering education primary school to college, this text provides educators with a model for uplifting and consistently showing up for their students.


In order to understand the parameters and extent of systemic racism in the teaching profession, educators need to be well versed in how policy functions, and what policies ultimately dictate their teaching settings. Each chapter of this text works through current policy issues such as school choice, school closures, standardized testing, discipline, and school funding – examining and discussing these issues through the implicit and explicit priorities and biases of current educational leadership. Making discussions of policy accessible and digestible to educators, this text pushes for an anti-racist shift in education from all angles.

The Art of Critical Pedagogy: Possibilities for Moving from Theory to Practice in Urban Schools by Jeff Duncan-Andrade. Peter Lang, 2008. 370.115 D912A. Also available as an ebook.

Duncan-Andrade argues that within urban school systems, educators must draw on critical pedagogy to enact real-life change. Offering a range of critical discourse pertaining to urban youth, classrooms, and programming, this book unpacks the challenges and opportunities of education while allowing educators to consider the implementation of pedagogical theory in their daily work.

A former public school teacher in Bronzeville, Chicago, Ewing’s study of school closures in the city examines the effects of school closures on the city’s Black students, the role of racism in the decision to close and its aftermath, and the fight to keep schools open. This book documents the impact of systemic racism in educational policies, and underlines the integral role of schools in Chicago’s black communities.

Black Focus I Systemic Racism I History


Hope, organizing and healing are at the forefront of this book about teacher activists in urban America. For educators seeking to improve academic achievement and engagement in youth communities of colour, this book offers frameworks for healing justice, as well as for social changes through community and political action.

Philosophy & Pedagogy I Action


Culturally responsive pedagogy has emerged as a way of counteracting the still prevalent “achievement gap” in culturally and linguistically diverse learners. While this approach is widely accepted, many teachers have experienced difficulty translating the ideas into action. Hammond provides teachers with insight into the ways in which culture and learning correlate and offers actionable steps for educators to integrate into their teaching – allowing for the culturally responsive teaching to succeed in contemporary classrooms.

Philosophy & Pedagogy I Action

Teaching to Transgress: Education as the Practice of Freedom by Bell Hooks. Routledge, 1994. 370.115 H784T. Also available as an ebook.

Nearly 25 years after its publication, this book’s call for reformative teaching practices to challenge racism, sexism, and classism in classrooms are relevant today. Bell’s series of essays urge teachers to confront biases in their teaching practices to create an environment where students want to learn. This book is for any teacher who feels lost or isolated in the struggle to enact meaningful change.

Philosophy & Pedagogy I K-12

A theoretical text that calls into question the “colorblind” approach to addressing racism in K-12 education – instead advocating for a “color consciousness” to address racism in teaching, learning, curriculum, creativity, assessment, discipline, implicit bias, and teacher education. This resource focuses on the perspective of teachers and teacher educators in addition to relevant researchers. Its practical component is easily accessible for educators to immediately and consistently enhance their pedagogy.


This anthology encourages anti-racist educational praxis through discourse. A guidebook that covers the history and theory of race from a Western perspective, social impacts of oppression, and current anti-racist action, this resource is a valuable asset for educators trying to enact meaningful change.

Not Light, but Fire: How to Lead Meaningful Race Conversations in the Classroom by Matthew R. Kay. Stenhouse, 2018. 370.117 K233N.

K-12 teachers need to engage their students with race conversations – however, many teachers fear they do not know enough, or are ill prepared to do this necessary work. Not Light, But Fire provides K-12 teachers with an invaluable source of information and strategies. Moving above and beyond what conversations to have in classrooms, Kay’s work provides teachers with the how – how to have conversations about race, and how these conversations can and should continue to shape the classroom.


This critical theory textbook outlines several frameworks for analyzing racial dynamics in education. Combining perspectives on critical race theory, marxism, whiteness, and cultural studies, Leonardo compares and critiques frameworks to build a dialogue for approaching racism both within and beyond the educational setting – Philosophy & Pedagogy.

Written in a Canadian context, this book examines race relations and workplace discrimination. By tackling organizational cultures and interactions that enforce white power and privilege, this book provides hands-on evaluation and instruction to create equitable organizations.

Action I Systemic Racism

We Want to Do More Than Survive: Abolitionist Teaching and the Pursuit of Educational Freedom by Bettina Love. Beacon Press, 2019. 371.8299607 L897W.

An exceptional resource that calls for the need to move beyond reformation to radical transformation within and beyond schools. An educator with a wealth of experience, Love argues for the need for parents, teachers, and communities to imagine and actionably alter education with the “urgency of an abolitionist”.

Philosophy & Pedagogy I Action I Black Focus


A combined force in theoretical and practical discussions and applications of anti-racist works, Lyiscott provides both a framework and an action plan for identifying and counteracting racism and white supremacy as it presents itself both subtly and explicitly within and beyond the classroom. A “must-read” resource for challenging systemic racism in education.

Philosophy & Pedagogy I Action I Black Focus I Systemic Racism


Pushout addresses the ways in which Black girls are systemically ignored, misrepresented, and punished in American schools through the constantly reproduced policies, practices, and cultural illiteracy that form the school system. This text also explores the ways in which, despite injustice from all angles, Black girls continue to persevere. An important resource for educators working to discover and undo their implicit biases, as well as the explicit biases of the field of education.

Philosophy & Pedagogy I Action I Black Focus I Systemic Racism I K-12

In a series of essays, Noguera argues the need for urban school reforms to support the diverse learning needs of minority, immigrant, and low-income students. Combining theory and practice, Noguera explores student experience and performance, systemic inequalities in existing school structures, and looks towards meaningful changes that can take place to improve equitable learning opportunities in urban school systems.

Action I Systemic Racism I K-12


Contemporary classrooms are in need of history resources and discussions that center Black voices, and Black contributions to social and political change. Hand in Hand provides readers with an accessible volume of colourful portraits and valuable information profiles surrounding Benjamin Banneker, Frederick Douglass, Booker T. Washington, W.E.B. DuBois, A. Philip Randolph, Thurgood Marshall, Jackie Robinson, Malcolm X, Martin Luther King, Jr and Barack H. Obama II. A resource educators and K-12 students alike can enjoy.

Black Focus I History


Educators have long shied away from meaningful conversations of race and racism in the early years, to the detriment of these young learners. Smidt argues for the need to move beyond celebrating difference, and for consciously challenging racism in young learning settings. This text serves as a useful tool for educators looking to integrate anti-racist methodology and practice into their early years programs.

Philosophy & Pedagogy I ECE


While not specifically related to the field of education, this resource serves as an exploration of the ways in which colonialism and white supremacy formed and continue to function within and across academia. It is an excellent source of educational commentary on the ways in which colorblindness contributes to the political, economic, and social issues that exist today. This text allows educators access to understanding the complex history of academia, and the work that must be done to uncover and address white supremacy in education.

Theory & Pedagogy I Black Focus I Systemic Racism