

THE ILLUMINATION PROJECT



**INTERACTIVE THEATER
ADDRESSING ISSUES OF
RACISM
AND IMMIGRATION
WINTER 2024**

ILLUMINATION PROJECT

2024

The Illumination Project is a nationally lauded program designed to address issues of equity and inclusion and to foster a climate of belonging, compassion, and respect for all people in the PCC community.

IP's interactive community performances are devised so that large sections of the campus can participate in problem-solving around issues that have traditionally made education more difficult for students of color, women, poor/working class, immigrant and LGBTQ+ students.

Project Coordinator: Jeannie LaFrance

Program Specialist: Loulou Fernandez

Assistant Coordinators: John Lyle Funk,
Sean Fields, Sparrow Lattanzi

Contact: 971-722-8149

jlafranc@pcc.edu

www.pcc.edu/resources/illumination

"It is not the place of the theatre to show the correct path, but only to offer the means by which all possible paths may be examined."

~ Augusto Boal

STUDENT EDUCATORS

Wolfgang Cardenas

Katarina Carrico

Foxy Epperson

Nancy Huynh

Natalia Kasperovich

Ally Kineman

Francia Lockerby

Lizz Louni

Isaac Macedo

Elizabeth Mortell

Jesse Quinlan

Elliot Rivera

Valerie Stefano

Dakotah Ross

Table of Contents

Land and Labor Acknowledgement.....	4
Terms Defined.....	5-7
Modern Slang with Racist Origins.....	8
Colorism.....	9
Asian Americans and the Impact of Stereotypes.....	10-11
Immigration Policies.....	12-13
Immigration News in 2023.....	14
Immigrant-Owned Business.....	15
Black Lives Matter.....	16-17
Civil Rights Movement.....	18
Juneteenth.....	19-20
CRT What's The Big Deal.....	20-21
BIPOC Communities and Healthcare.....	22-23
Henrietta Lacks HeLa Cells.....	24-25
The Legacy of Racism in Medicine.....	26-27
Unearthing Oregon's Past.....	28-29
Should an Iconic Song Sound Different Today?.	30-31
Resources on Campus.....	32 -33
Source Citations.....	34-35

LAND AND LABOR ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Multnomah County rests on traditional village sites of the Multnomah, Kathlamet, and Clackamas bands of the Chinook, Tualatin Kalapuya, Molalla, and many other Tribes who made their homes along the Columbia River. Multnomah is a band of Chinooks that lived in this area.

We thank the descendants of these tribes for being the original stewards and protectors of these lands since time immemorial. We also acknowledge that Portland, OR has the 9th largest Urban Native American population in the U.S. with over 360 federally recognized tribes represented in the Urban Portland Metropolitan area. We acknowledge the systemic policies of genocide, relocation, and assimilation that still impact many Indigenous/Native American families today. The struggle for recognition, systemic change, visibility, and voice are still ongoing. We are honored by the collective work of many Native Nations, leaders and families who are demonstrating resilience, resistance, revitalization, healing and creativity. We are honored to be guests upon these lands.

Thanks to our colleagues at the Portland State University
Indigenous Nations Studies Program for crafting this
acknowledgment.

We also pause to recognize and acknowledge the labor upon which our country, state, and institution are built.

We remember that our country is built on the labor of enslaved people who were kidnapped and brought to the US from the African continent and recognize the continued contribution of their survivors. We also acknowledge all immigrant labor including voluntary, involuntary, trafficked, forced, and undocumented peoples who contributed to the building of the country and continue to serve within our labor force.

Thanks to our colleagues at the Bellevue College Office of
Diversity, Equity and Inclusion for crafting this acknowledgement.

THESE ARE THE FIRST STEPS.

PLEASE, DO NOT LET THEM BE THE LAST.

HERE ARE SOME IDEAS FOR ACTION:

[HTTPS://NATIVEGOV.ORG/NEWS/BEYOND-LAND-ACKNOWLEDGMENT-GUIDE/](https://nativegov.org/news/beyond-land-acknowledgment-guide/)

BEING AN ALLY AND ACCOMPLICE

The term ally is defined as someone who advocates for groups or individuals who do not come from the same place of privilege as the ally. Being an ally is considered one of the first steps in race and social justice work. The term accomplice encompasses allyship but goes beyond to advocacy.

An accomplice uses their privilege to challenge existing conditions at the risk of their own comfort and well-being. Whereas an ally might work to make changes on an individual level, an accomplice aims to tackle racial injustices on an institutional level.

Becoming an ally does not happen overnight. It is a process of self-awareness and work toward unlearning social constructs. An ally is asked to accept that mistakes may be made along the way and commit to continuing their education every day.

Being an ally is about recognizing your privilege, then using it in solidarity with marginalized groups to challenge the status quo. It involves working through discomfort, listening, and learning from mistakes.

In the context of race and social justice work, an accomplice is someone who assists others in creating a space of inclusion, equity, and safety for all, often at the risk of their own social and/or professional standing and physical well-being.

Opportunities for White People in the Fight for Racial Justice provides the following example to better understand the difference between ally and accomplice: An ally will volunteer at a local racial justice-focused organization, while an accomplice will join an organization with an explicit aim of naming and disrupting racial injustice.

TERMINOLOGY DEFINED

Anti-racism: The work of actively opposing racism by advocating for changes in political, economic, and social life. Anti-racism tends to be an individualized approach, and set up in opposition to individual racist behaviors and impacts.

Colorism: Discrimination based on skin color, which often privileges lighter-skinned people within a racial group, positioning people with darker complexions at the bottom of the racial hierarchy.

Cultural appropriation: The adoption of elements of a culture that has been subordinated in social, political, economic status by a different cultural group.

Discrimination: The unjust or prejudicial treatment of different categories of people, especially on the grounds of ethnicity, age, sex, or disability.

Institutionalized racism: Discrimination or unequal treatment on the basis of membership in a particular ethnic or racial group (typically one that is a minority or marginalized), arising from systems, structures, or expectations that have become established within an institution or organization. Within the context of the United States people of color are targeted by institutionalized racism and white people benefit.

Islamophobia: The irrational fear of, aversion to, or discrimination against Islam or people who practice Islam.

Microaggression: Indirect, subtle, or unintentional discrimination against members of a marginalized group

TERMS DEFINED CONTINUED.

People of Color: Often the preferred collective term for referring to non-white racial groups, rather than “minorities.” Racial justice advocates have been using the term “people of color” (not to be confused with the pejorative “colored people”) since the late 1970s as an inclusive and unifying frame across different racial groups that are not white, to address racial inequities. While “people of color” can be a politically useful term, and describes people with their own attributes (as opposed to what they are not, eg: “non-white”), it is also important whenever possible to identify people through their own racial/ethnic group, as each has its own distinct experience and meaning and may be more appropriate.

Prejudice: A preconceived opinion that is not based on reason or actual experience.

Privilege: A special right, advantage, or immunity granted or available only to a particular person or group.

Racism: Prejudice, discrimination, or antagonism by an individual, community, or institution against a person or people on the basis of their membership in a particular racial or ethnic group, typically one that is a minority or marginalized.

Redlining: A discriminatory practice that consists of the systematic denial of services such as mortgages, insurance loans, and other financial services to residents of certain areas, based on their race or ethnicity.

Reverse racism: A concept based on a misunderstanding of what racism is, often used to accuse and attack efforts made to rectify systemic injustices. Every individual can be prejudiced and biased at one time or another about various people and behaviors, but racism is based on power and systematic oppression.

White Fragility: Discomfort and defensiveness on the part of a white person when confronted by information about racial inequality and injustice.

White Privilege: Inherent advantages possessed by a white person on the basis of their race in a society characterized by racial inequality and injustice.

White Supremacy: The belief that white people constitute a superior race and should therefore dominate society, typically to the exclusion and detriment of other racial and ethnic groups.

Xenophobia: Dislike of or prejudice against people from other countries.

Modern Slang with Racist Origins

Peanut Gallery

When marginalized groups were forced to be in the open pit during theater and were fed cheap foods like peanuts.

Cakewalk

A dance performed by slaves to mock white folks, but was interpreted by whites as poor attempts to be like them. Slave owners would hold contests where enslaved people competed for cake, hence the term "cakewalk".

Uppity

Coined during the Jim Crow era, the term was used to describe black people who were believed to not show enough deference to white people.

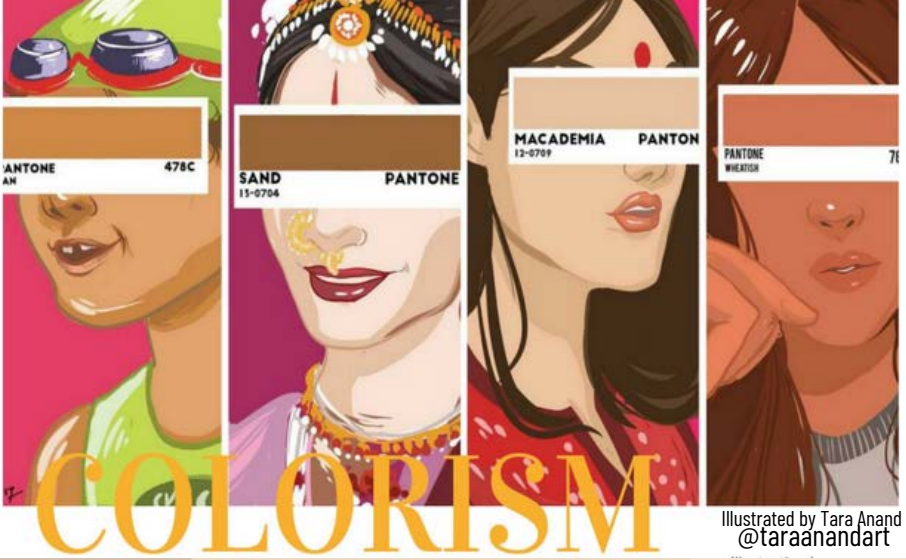
Sold Down the River

Today it means someone who has betrayed you, but in the past it was used when slaves were sold down the Mississippi river from the north.

Gyp/Jip

To cheat someone, it's a shortened version of the term "gypsy", a term used to describe the Romani, an ethnic group mostly located in Europe and America.

They were stereotyped as swindlers, hence why a "gyp" was associated with a "cheat".

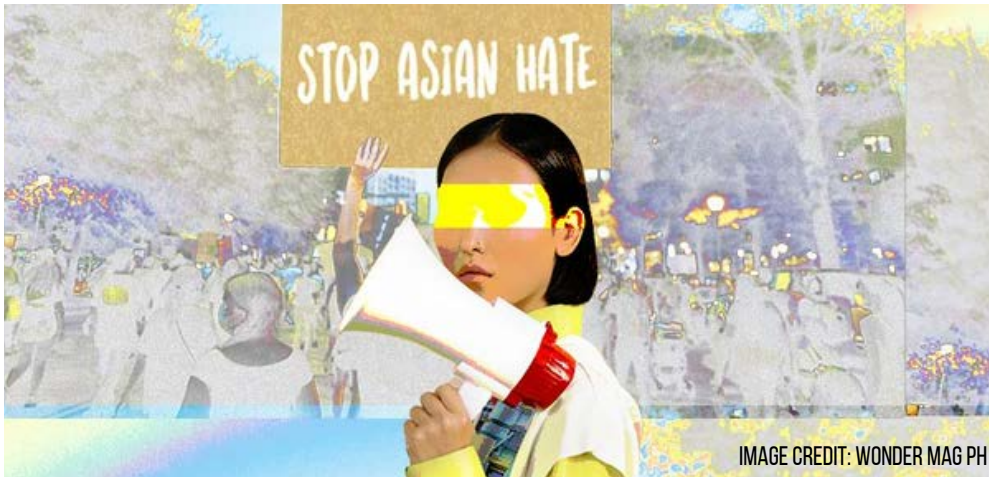


Definition of Colorism: A key difference between racism and colorism is that while racism deals with the subjugation of one group by another or the belief in racial supremacy, **colorism deals with in-group discrimination, in addition to between-group discrimination.**

- Colorism is about within-group and between-group prejudice in favor of lighter skin color—what feminist author Alice Walker calls “Colorism”—is a global cultural practice.
- Colorism focuses on how **racism** is expressed in the psychology of a people, and how it affects their concepts of beauty, wealth, and privilege. A key difference between racism and colorism is that while racism deals with the subjugation of one group by another or the belief in racial supremacy, colorism deals with in-group discrimination, in addition to between-group discrimination.
- If you have lighter skin, you are much more likely to be afforded privileges that people of darker complexions (of any race/ethnic background) do not have access to. You can, however, use this privilege to advocate for the better treatment of people with darker skin.

How Does Colorism Affect Employment?

“lighter-skinned individuals are more likely to be hired, promoted, and advanced to leadership compared with their darker-skinned counterparts across the globe”

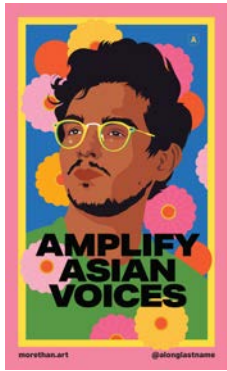


Most Asian Americans in the US face discrimination based on two harmful stereotypes:

- **Perpetual foreigner:** This stereotype sees them as outsiders, regardless of how long their families have been in the US. Imagine being told to "go back to your own country" even though you were born and raised in the U.S.
- **Model minority:** This stereotype portrays them as hardworking and successful, often ignoring their struggles and experiences with racism. Imagine being praised for being "good at math" without acknowledging the hard work you put in or the discrimination you face.

Impact of Stereotypes: These stereotypes lead to various forms of discrimination: including:

- **Microaggressions:** Subtle, often unintentional words or actions that demean or invalidate someone's identity. For example, being asked "Where are you really from?" or being told, "Your English is SO GOOD" when you were born in the U.S.
- **Prejudice and bias:** Negative attitudes and assumptions about Asian Americans. For example, being passed over for promotions or jobs because of your race.
- **Systemic discrimination:** Unfair policies and practices that disadvantage Asian Americans, such as in housing, jobs, and education. For example, discriminatory lending practices that make it harder for Asian Americans to buy homes.



Common experiences include:

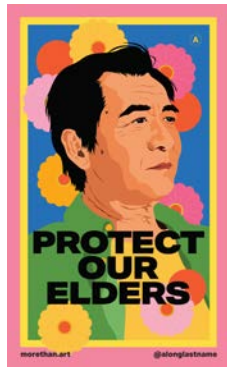
- Being mistaken for foreigners or told to "go back to your own country."
- Facing microaggressions like mispronouncing names or making assumptions about your abilities.
- Experiencing prejudice in workplaces and schools.
- Nearly 60% of Asian Americans have faced racial discrimination.



Remember: Asian Americans are not a monolith. They come from different countries, cultures, and backgrounds, and their experiences with discrimination vary.

Overall, we need a shift in narrative:

- We need to recognize both the successes and struggles of Asian Americans.
- We need to work towards a more inclusive and equitable society where everyone is treated fairly, regardless of their race or ethnicity.



IMMIGRATION POLICIES



What is the INA and what is it for?

- **The Immigration and Nationality Act (INA)**, enacted in 1952, serves as the foundational body of law governing immigration policy in the United States. This comprehensive legislation outlines the various aspects of immigration: including visa categories, eligibility criteria, and the processes for admission, naturalization, and deportation.
- Establishes the authority to allocate immigrant visas with an annual limit set for permanent admissions.
- It defines the legal rights and responsibilities of immigrants, addressing issues such as family reunification, employment-based immigration, asylum, and refugee protection.
- The INA has undergone amendments and updates to reflect evolving immigration priorities and challenges, making it a crucial framework for shaping the nation's immigration policies and practices.

Know your Rights: Relevant Info for Immigrants.

1. Fourth and Fifth Amendments:

The Fourth Amendment protects against unreasonable searches and seizures. The Fifth Amendment guarantees the right to remain silent and not self-incriminate.

2. DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals):

Individuals who arrived in the U.S. as children may qualify for temporary protection against deportation and work permits through DACA.

3. TPS (Temporary Protected Status):

Individuals from designated countries may obtain TPS due to temporary conditions preventing safe return to their home country.

4. Asylum: Individuals facing persecution or a credible fear of persecution in their home country can apply for asylum in the United States.

5. Labor Rights: Immigrants, regardless of their status, have labor rights, including minimum wage and safe working conditions.



6. Right to Education: Children have the right to public education, regardless of their immigration status.

7. Rights in Encounters with ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement): The right to remain silent and not open the door without a judicial warrant.

8. Housing: Protection against discrimination in housing based on race, religion, nationality, or other factors.

9. Domestic Violence: Victims of domestic violence may qualify for special visas, such as the U Visa.

10. Access to Public Services: Access to health services and other public services regardless of immigration status.

11. Citizenship Through Marriage: Individuals married to U.S. citizens may have options to obtain residence and eventual citizenship.

12. Workplace Rights: Protection against employment discrimination and the right to a safe working environment.



IMPORTANT SOURCES TO CONSULT:



<https://uscode.house.gov/> : The United States Code (US Code) is a compilation of federal laws in the United States and does not directly provide immigration policies, but establishes the legal basis for various areas, including immigration. Immigration laws in the United States are primarily outlined in the United States Code, Title 8, known as the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA).

<https://www.uscis.gov/>: United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) is an agency of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) charged with administering and enforcing immigration and citizenship laws in the United States. Its main function is to process and adjudicate applications and petitions related to visas, permanent residence, citizenship, asylum, and other immigration benefits. USCIS plays a crucial role in implementing immigration policies, ensuring that procedures are carried out fairly, efficiently, and in accordance with the law. Additionally, the agency plays an essential role in verifying and authorizing employment for immigrants and protecting the integrity of the U.S. immigration system.



U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

IMMIGRATION NEWS IN 2023

SB 1718 Law.

The law was implemented on July 1, 2023, in the state of Florida, promoted by Governor Ron de Santis. It is primarily aimed at reinforcing measures against immigrants.

Among the points that stand out the most are:

- Companies with more than 25 employees must verify the legal status of all their employees with the E-verify application.
- Companies with undocumented workers will pay fines of 1,000 dollars a day.
- Hospitals must check the immigration status of patients.
- Drivers with undocumented passengers can face prison terms of 5 to 15 years.



This state law has sparked controversy, with many people perceiving it as a xenophobic and white nationalist measure. It's regarded as a part of Governor Ron de Santis' political agenda, who was running for the 2024 presidential elections until recently.

Buoys on the Rio Grande in Texas

In July 15, 2023, buoys with barbed wire were installed on the Rio Grande in Texas, effectively blocking over 300 meters of the river and preventing immigrants from crossing into Texas from Mexico. This action, taken by Texas Governor Greg Abbot, has been widely criticized as an inhumane and arbitrary measure.

This action is part of the Governor of Texas' anti-immigration policies, which aim to prevent the passage of immigrants through the state. The measures proposed include acquiring additional helicopters, military personnel, and buoys to monitor and control border crossings.



Lacking federal approval, in September the removal of these buoys was ordered by order of the United States Congress.

Immigrant-Owned Business

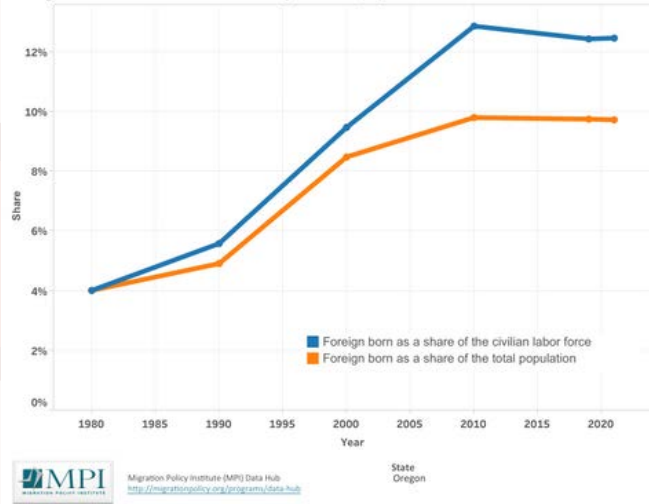
An Uphill Battle

Business owners who knowingly hire an undocumented person can be fined, have their inventory taken, or be arrested. That's why many undocumented immigrants turn to opening small businesses. There's no law directly stopping undocumented immigrants from starting a business, but it can be hard because of policies around immigration and owning a business. Lawyers will actually use business ownership as a defense for people at risk of deportation.

Immigrants and Small Business

Despite immigrants making up over 13.6% of the population in 2019, they made up 21.7% of small businesses. This chart from the Migration Policy Institute shows how immigrant populations grew in Oregon and how they contributed to the labor force from 1980 to 2021.

Immigrants in the Civilian Labor Force by U.S. State, 1980-2021



Gaining Residency

Getting citizenship can be difficult due to long processing times, fees, and tests involved. First, you must get a green card, which you can only get if you...

1. Have a relative who is a US citizen
2. Are married to someone who is a US citizen
3. Work with a US employer, or
4. Make a certain amount of money in commercial business.

Then you must have lived in the US for at least five years, demonstrate sufficient knowledge of US history, culture, and English language, have a valid address, and more.

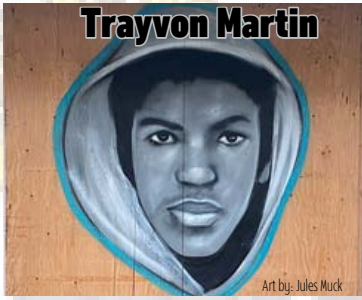
During that time, it can be difficult for undocumented individuals to find work, as employers are required to refuse to hire or fire someone once they find out they lack work authorization.

**BLACK
LIVES
MATTER**

**BLACK
LIVES
MATTER**

**BLACK
LIVES
MATTER**

In 2013, three radical Black organizers — Alicia Garza, Patrisse Cullors, and Opal Tometi — created a Black-centered political will and movement-building project called #BlackLivesMatter. It was in response to the acquittal of Trayvon Martin's murderer, George Zimmerman.



BLM's **mission** is to eradicate white supremacy and build local power to intervene in violence inflicted on Black communities by the state and vigilantes. By combating and countering acts of violence, creating space for Black imagination and innovation, and centering Black joy.

Black Lives Matter is an ideological and political intervention in a world where Black lives are systematically and intentionally targeted for demise. It is an affirmation of Black folks' humanity, their contributions to this society, and their resilience in the face of deadly oppression.



The BLM movement is driven by a collective effort to stop the dehumanization of Black communities, in an effort to stop police brutality and other forms of violence.

Unlike the 1960s Civil Rights Movement, BLM provides an intersectional framework that resists a single-issue struggle towards liberation and, instead, includes Black, queer, trans, undocumented, and people with disabilities.

BLACK
LIVES STILL
MATTER
EVEN IF
YOUR FEED
IS BACK
TO NORMAL



Juneteenth was recognized as a federal holiday in 2021, when President Joe Biden signed the Juneteenth National Independence Day Act into law. Juneteenth became the first new federal holiday since Martin Luther King Jr. Day was adopted in 1983.

Juneteenth's historical context:

- Despite the celebration of July 4th as Independence Day, **Black Americans remained enslaved until June 19th, 1865**, when Union Major General Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston, Texas, to announce their freedom.

Overlooked and under-celebrated:

- Despite being ignored and marginalized, the Black community persevered in celebrating Juneteenth, keeping its history alive through sheer determination and activism. The fight for its recognition as a federal holiday lasted for decades.

Perseverance and activism:

- Juneteenth wasn't widely acknowledged by white Americans and excluded from many history textbooks. Even within the Black community, particularly in the north, celebrations weren't widespread.

Significance and remembrance:

- Juneteenth is more than just a celebration; it's a time for remembrance, honoring the enslaved Africans who built the nation and acknowledging the ongoing struggle for equality.

THE JUNETEENTH FLAG



THE COLORS

The red, white and blue colors represent the American flag, a reminder that slaves and their descendants were and are Americans.

THE ARC

The curve that extends across the width of the flag represents a new horizon: the opportunities and promise that lay ahead for Black Americans.

THE STAR

The white star in the center represents both Texas (the Lone Star State), as well as the freedom of African Americans in all 50 states.

THE BURST

The bursting outline around the star is inspired by a nova, a term that astronomers use to mean a new star. This represents a new beginning for African Americans.

THE DATE

The date marks the day enslaved African Americans in Galveston, Texas learned of their freedom when Union troops arrived to announce the Emancipation Proclamation.

- The official Juneteenth flag was red, white, and blue displaying that all American slaves and their descendants were Americans.
- However, many in the black community have adopted the Pan-African flag, red black, and green.
- The colors represent the blood, soil, and prosperity of Africa and its people.



Critical Race Theory ...

Unpacking Critical Race Theory: A Simple Explanation

Critical race theory (CRT) might sound like a complicated legal jargon, but it's actually a tool to understand something familiar: how race shapes our lives. Imagine it like a magnifying glass, helping us see the hidden patterns of racism woven into our laws, policies, and everyday experiences.



Here are the key ideas:

- **Race is a social construct:** Not a biological fact, but a system created to advantage some groups and disadvantage others. i.e. the "One Drop Rule" denotes that any person with even one ancestor of black ancestry ("one drop" of "black blood") is considered black. This "construction" happened over centuries, shaping everything from who gets jobs to who lives in safe neighborhoods.
- **Racism isn't just about individual bias:** It's also built into the very fabric of our society. Think of unfair laws that kept Black people from voting or owning land. These weren't just individual acts, but part of a larger system that favored white people.
- **Even "neutral" things can be racist:** Think of a rule requiring everyone to keep their hair "professional", but only deeming certain hairstyles and textures acceptable. That might seem fair, but it ultimately disadvantages the group that doesn't fit the standard by labeling them "unprofessional".
- **Intersectionality:** CRT emphasizes the interconnectedness of different forms of oppression, such as race, class, gender, and sexual orientation. This means that individuals can experience discrimination and marginalization based on multiple identities, and that anti-racist work must address all forms of oppression.

What's the Big Deal?

WHY IS CRT IMPORTANT?

It helps us:

- **See the bigger picture:** Instead of blaming individuals, we can see how racism works as a system. This can be uncomfortable, but it's crucial to understanding how to dismantle it.
- **Fight for justice:** By knowing how racism manifests in different areas, we can work towards fairer laws, policies, and practices. This could mean things like reforming the criminal justice system or creating more inclusive education.
- **Build a better future:** By understanding the past and present, we can create a society where everyone has an equal chance to succeed, regardless of their race.



Remember, CRT isn't about blaming anyone. It's about understanding how racism works, so we can create a more just and equitable world for everyone. It's like putting on those special glasses to see the things we might have missed before, and then working together to make things right.

So, next time you hear about critical race theory, remember: it's not about pointing fingers, but about opening eyes. It's a tool for understanding, and ultimately, for building a better future.



BIPOC Communities and Healthcare



Credit Image UCSF CARE Advocate

- Even though health care is essential to health, research shows that health outcomes are driven by multiple factors, including underlying genetics, health behaviors, social and environmental factors, and access to health care.
- A broad array of factors within and beyond the health care system drive disparities in health and health care.
- **Racism negatively affects mental and physical health both directly and by creating inequities across the social determinants of health.**
- While there is currently no consensus in the research on the magnitude of the relative contributions of each of these factors to health, studies suggest that health behaviors and social and economic factors, often referred to as social determinants of health, are the primary drivers of health outcomes and that social and economic factors shape individuals' health behaviors.



Racism Takes the "Care"

Out of Healthcare

When comparing the medical experiences of Black, Latino, and white individuals, the contrast is disconcerting, and these differences begin from birth. Maternal health outcomes exhibit persistent and unacceptable disparities.



Clinical guidelines based on race, taught to medical professionals and students, without proper contextualization of their evidentiary basis, worsen healthcare disparities. The consequences of such guidelines can result in the failure to receive necessary care or the administration of inappropriate care.



Understanding cultural norms and traditions positively influences healthcare outcomes. Given the diverse languages and traditions, various nuances impact aspects such as literacy, child-rearing practices, elder care, and self-healing.

- Standardize language used to describe race/ethnicity.
- Appropriately contextualize racial/ethnic differences in disease burden.
- Generate and impart evidence-based medical knowledge when it comes to race.



Representation Matters!

During visits to schools in Flint, Michigan, students initially said they were interested in working retail jobs or playing pro basketball. Weeks later, after meeting medical students who looked like them, the students said they, too, wanted to become doctors.



Henrietta

The world owes much to Henrietta Lacks. Lacks was a Black woman whose cells were removed during a biopsy in 1951 - and used for research without her knowledge or approval. Henrietta Lacks' contribution to medicine is significant and multifaceted, despite her never knowingly giving consent to it.

Immortal Cells:

In 1951, during treatment for cervical cancer, cells were taken from Lacks without her knowledge or consent. These cells, later named HeLa cells (derived from the first two letters of her first and last name), possessed the remarkable ability to multiply indefinitely in laboratory conditions. This made them the first immortal human cell line, a crucial resource for medical research.

Groundbreaking Research:

HeLa cells have been used in over 17,000 scientific studies, contributing to advances in:

Vaccine development: HeLa cells played a key role in creating the polio vaccine, HPV vaccine, and research toward COVID-19 vaccines.

Cancer research: Lacks' cells helped understand cancer cell growth and develop new cancer treatments.

Genetic studies: HeLa cells were pivotal in mapping the human genome, advancing our understanding of genetic diseases.

1920

Henrietta Lacks was born Loretta Pleasant on August 1, 1920, in Roanoke, Virginia to Eliza and Johnny Pleasant.

1941

On April 10, 1941, Henrietta Pleasant married David "Day" Lacks

1951

A biopsy of Henrietta Lacks' tumor was taken and sent to the lab of Dr. George Gey resulting in the creation of HeLa cell line.

1952

Scientists used HeLa cells to help develop the polio vaccine.

1973

Scientists used HeLa cells to study the behavior of salmonella inside human cells.



Lacks



The Mother of Modern Medicine by Kadir Nelson

Other medical fields:

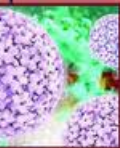
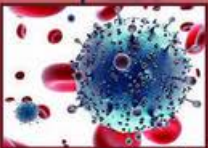


Research using HeLa cells has contributed to treatments for AIDS, Parkinson's disease, hemophilia, and infertility.

Ethical Issues:

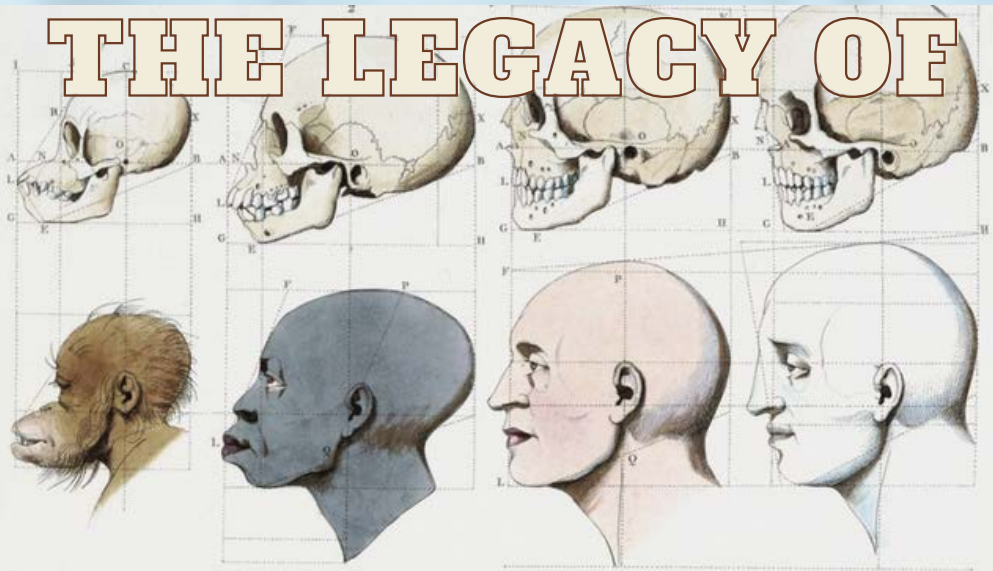
While Lacks' cells undeniably revolutionized medicine, her story exposes ethical concerns about informed consent, racial injustice in healthcare, and the exploitation of vulnerable populations. The Lacks family only learned about the extensive use of her cells decades later, sparking discussions about patient rights and equitable access to healthcare benefits.

Legacy:

Henrietta Lacks is often referred to as the "Mother of Modern Medicine" due to the immense impact her cells have had on countless lives. Her story continues to raise awareness about ethical issues in scientific research and inspire efforts to ensure informed consent and equitable access to healthcare advancements.

1984	1986	1993	2013
HeLa cells were used by a German virologist to help prove that the human papillomavirus (HPV) causes cancer.	The virus infection mechanism of HIV was studied by scientists who infected HeLa cells with HIV.	HeLa cells were used to study tuberculosis.	On August 6, 2013, the NIH announced an agreement with the family of Henrietta Lacks to allow biomedical researchers controlled access to the whole genome data of HeLa cells.
			

THE LEGACY OF



Phrénologie

Illustration Camper (1791).

Early Medical Experimentation

The roots of racism in medicine can be traced back to the early days of medical experimentation when BIPOC were often used as unwilling subjects without their consent. In the 18th and 19th centuries, for example, enslaved Black people were subjected to horrific experiments in the name of scientific research. These experiments were often conducted with little regard for the pain and suffering of the subjects, and they contributed to the development of harmful stereotypes about Black people's bodies and minds.

"Father of Modern Gynecology"

James Marion Sims developed pioneering tools and surgical techniques related to women's reproductive health. In 1876, he was named president of the American Medical Association, and in 1880, he became president of the American Gynecological Society, an organization he helped found. Sims made significant contributions to the field of gynecology. However, his legacy is deeply tarnished by his unethical experimentation on enslaved Black women.

James Marion Sims' Experiments:

- Between 1845 and 1849, Sims performed numerous surgical procedures on enslaved women without their consent **or anesthesia**.
- He justified these experiments on the grounds that Black women felt less pain than white women, a racist belief widely held at the time.
- These experiments focused on treating vesicovaginal fistulas, a childbirth complication that causes leakage of urine and feces.
- While Sims ultimately developed a successful surgical technique, his methods were cruel and exploitative.



Illustration of Dr. J. Marion Sims with Anarcha by Robert Thom. Anarcha was subjected to 30 experimental surgeries.

RACISM IN MEDICINE

The Tuskegee Syphilis Study

One of the most infamous examples of racism in medicine is the Tuskegee Syphilis Study, which was conducted by the United States Public Health Service from 1932 to 1972. The study involved 600 Black men from Alabama who were infected with syphilis but were not told of their diagnosis or offered treatment. The researchers wanted to study the natural progression of the disease, even though there were effective treatments available at the time. As a result of the study, many of the men died or suffered debilitating complications from syphilis



Image Credit PBS Collection: Finding Your Roots

The Legacy of Racism in Medicine

The Tuskegee Syphilis Study is just one example of the many ways in which racism has been embedded in the medical system. BIPOC communities continue to face discrimination in healthcare, and they are more likely to experience delayed diagnoses, inadequate treatment, poorer health outcomes, and even death. This is due in part to a number of factors, including implicit bias among healthcare providers, a lack of access to quality healthcare, and the historical trauma that BIPOC communities have experienced.

Addressing Racism in Medicine

Addressing racism in medicine requires a multi-pronged approach. It is important to raise awareness of the issue and to educate healthcare providers about implicit bias and cultural competency. It is also important to address the social and economic factors that contribute to health disparities, such as poverty, lack of access to education, and environmental racism.

In addition, it is important to prioritize the voices of BIPOC communities in developing healthcare policies and practices. BIPOC communities have a wealth of knowledge and experience that can be invaluable in improving healthcare for all.

Past, Present, and Future of Medicine

Medicine has a long and troubling history of racism, and this legacy continues to have a profound impact on the health of BIPOC communities. Addressing racism in medicine is essential to ensuring that everyone has access to the quality healthcare they deserve.

**RACISM
IS A
PUBLIC
HEALTH
CRISIS.**

**RACISM
IS A
PUBLIC
HEALTH
CRISIS.**

**RACISM
IS A
PUBLIC
HEALTH
CRISIS.**

**RACISM
IS A
PUBLIC
HEALTH
CRISIS.**

**RACISM
IS A
PUBLIC
HEALTH
CRISIS.**

**RACISM
IS A
PUBLIC
HEALTH
CRISIS.**

**RACISM
IS A
PUBLIC
HEALTH
CRISIS.**

**RACISM
IS A
PUBLIC
HEALTH
CRISIS.**

**RACISM
IS A
PUBLIC
HEALTH
CRISIS.**

UNEARTHING OREGON'S

PAST

This is not an empty field

Lone Fir Cemetery in Southeast Portland is the oldest continuously operating burial ground in the city and it has long been known as the final resting place of many prominent individuals from Portland's history. However, the cemetery also holds the stories of others whose contributions to Portland history have been erased from most history books.

Lone Fir Cemetery is divided into numbers sections called "blocks" and the area that once held the Chinese cemetery is located in Block 14, at the corner of SE 20th Ave. and SE Morrison St.

For decades, the Chinese section included an altar for making offerings to the dead, as well as a "bone-house" for preparing and storing the deceased's bones before shipping them to China - a common cultural practice among Southern Chinese at that time.

More than 2,800 Chinese and Chinese-American People were buried in Lone Fir Cemetery between the 1860s and 1920s

- **1928:** Multnomah County took ownership of Lone Fir and began to work toward removal of the Chinese cemetery.
- **1947:** The County told the Oregon Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association (CCBA) to remove all remaining bodies from the Chinese cemetery so that the county could build on the land.
- **1950's:** Block 14 believed to be empty of remains. An Office building and parking lot was erected (since then they have been torn down).





- **2004:** Community groups raise alarm as county begins redevelopment. Recent research suggests contrary to prior reports, human remains could still be there.
- **2007:** Metro (the new owner) called together a group of historians and community members to research and come up with a new plan for a memorial at Block 14 aiming to shine a light on its history.

On October 21, 2023, the agency unveiled a conceptual rendering of the memorial. There are currently two design concepts being considered for the memorial: The Grove and The Hill. This October, Hanna Erickson, a spokesperson for Metro told in her interview with the Oregonian, “What we really want to do is create a space where people can reflect on history and their role in it, learn about the history of the state, and create space for healing and participation in ritual and other cultural practices.”

During three informational sessions organized by Metro Parks and Nature, Knot, the design firm contracted by Metro to plan and create the cultural heritage and healing garden shared its plans for a new memorial with the members of the Chinese American community and asked for their input. Many attendees expressed pain at the erasure of their history and their desire to share that history in this memorial project. One of the participants said:

“We came here with a lot of ingenuity and contributed to Oregon history. We need to acknowledge that history and celebrate what we have become”.

You can learn more survey design options, and stay connected by going here:
<https://www.oregonmetro.gov/public-projects/honoring-untold-stories-lone-fir-cemetery>.

The memorial will be funded through 2019 Parks and Nature Bond and it is expected to be completed by 2026.

SHOULD AN ICONIC DIFFERENT

“**This Land Is Your Land**” is a song by the American folk singer Woody Guthrie who is one of the most famous American folk singers. Today, it is usually sung as a popular unifying anthem by Americans of every background.

But it was originally written as a scathing condemnation of the idea that land could be owned and treated as property, and intended as a strong criticism of capitalist society and its treatment of poor people.

Woody Guthrie wrote it in February 1940. At that time the song debuted on his weekly radio show

THIS LAND IS YOUR LAND.
THIS LAND IS MY LAND.
FROM CALIFORNIA
TO THE NEW YORK ISLAND
FROM THE REDWOOD FOREST
TO THE GULF STREAM WATERS
THIS LAND WAS MADE
FOR YOU AND ME.

woody guthrie

In 1944, Guthrie had already revised the title, reworked the last of each verse, and also nixed the two most controversial verses that accused the American system of business of greed and disregard for the needy which made it well suited for all-American anthem in the form most of us know today.

In recent years, people have started questioning why we are not confronting an ignorant side of our national identity that this “land” was stolen from Native Americans who lived here before European settlers came.

A good friend of Woody Guthrie White American singer Pete Seeger, who performed with him and continued the tradition of social activism and folk music after his death, remembered that in 1968 Native American Henry Crow Dog pointed out to Seeger “Hey, you’re both wrong. (referring to Pete Seeger and Black American singer Jimmy Collier) It belongs to *me*”. By saying this, he pointed out that many of us might not even hear colonial overtones in our beloved classics.

SONG SOUND TODAY?

Seeger also shared that there were several other versions of the song that Guthrie wrote which are not so well known, and some that were added by other people.

Seeger and others started singing them because they felt that there was a danger to this song being misinterpreted without these new/old verses being added. He shared this anonymous verse that shows the Indigenous perspective.

"THIS LAND IS YOUR LAND,
IT ONCE WAS MY LAND,
BEFORE WE SOLD YOU
MANHATTAN ISLAND,
YOU PUSHED OUR NATIONS
TO THE RESERVATIONS
THIS LAND WAS STOLE BY YOU
FROM ME."

The Abenaki writer and musician Mali Obomsawin in her critique of "This Land Is Your Land", points out the utmost importance of including Indigenous people's perspective by saying that "when Americans call this country a 'nation of immigrants', the proclamation erases Native peoples' right to exist in the collective consciousness". Her words are an important reminder that many of us indeed have a blind spot which ignores and forgets the history and the present lives of Indigenous people.

Let's remember that we are inherently racists if we are not constantly working to dismantle the systems of oppression in this country. If we want to sing "This Land Is Your Land", let us preface it with acknowledgment of the colonial history of our country, include additional verses, or find some other appropriate options. Let's make it truly an all-American song by hearing Pete Seeger's words:

"The best thing that could happen to the song would be for it to end up with hundreds of different versions, being sung by millions of people who understand the basic message."

CAMPUS RESOURCES

CLEAR Clinic aims to help PCC community members reduce barriers to employment, housing, education and well-being. We are dedicated to increasing access to justice and addressing the lasting impact of disproportionate law enforcement on people of color and low-income communities. www.pcc.edu/clear-clinic/

Portland Community College DREAMers Center provides a safer space for our Undocumented/DACAmented community. This space is for students to achieve their academic goals through the resources provided, gain leadership skills and receive financial and legal support.

<https://www.pcc.edu/dream/>

Cascade, Rock Creek, Southeast, and Sylvania Multicultural Centers were founded to address institutional racism and the unique needs of students of color at PCC. The Multicultural Centers support the academic achievement, leadership development, and advancement of students of color at PCC.

For hours of operation: www.pcc.edu/multicultural/

The Office of Equity and Inclusion is committed to the urgent, sustained, and comprehensive work of creating a college climate that demonstrates PCC's commitment to civil rights, diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Downtown Center, Room 300

971-722-5840

equity.inclusion@pcc.edu

PROGRAMS OFFERED THROUGH THE MULTICULTURAL CENTER:

Equity and Diversity Advocates are a group of culturally responsive student leaders dedicated to empowering PCC students and serving their community.

Equity Ambassadors (EAs) are a group of high-achieving PCC students from various cultural backgrounds. The program offers an opportunity to improve the EAs' leadership skills, develop multicultural programs, and participate on campus committees that advocate for student rights.

Multicultural Student Leadership Program is a yearlong paid internship designed to develop diverse students' academic, leadership, professional, critical thinking, and social change skills. Central to the program is a rigorous academic component designed to develop strategies and practices necessary for college success.

Started in 2008 as a pilot, the Men of Color Leadership Program (MoCLP) has been going strong for 13 years. The program combines college credit courses with campus and community resources.

CAMPUS RESOURCES

Campus Outreach & Advocacy Project:

The Advocacy Project provides confidential supportive services to students who have experienced harm. This includes: safety planning, ongoing check ins/support, advocacy, and assistance with protection orders, TANF and SNAP

Monday-Friday between 8-4pm, hayley.hayes@pcc.edu, 503-619-7041

PCC Free Counseling:

PCC Counseling is offering individual and group counseling services as well as social work services through a remote telehealth platform.

To make an appointment, please call **971-722-8153** and leave a message with your name, G number if you have it, and the best way to reach you. You will be contacted by a PCC counselor who will do an intake appointment with you and will discuss our services.

971-722-8153 | <https://www.pcc.edu/counseling/>

Accessible Education and Disability Resources (AEDR)

AEDR leads the PCC community to recognize disability as a valued aspect of diversity, embrace access as a matter of social justice, and to promote universal design and inclusive environments.

www.pcc.edu/disability-services/

Queer Resource Center

The Portland Community College Queer Resource Centers provide advocacy, education, leadership development, programming, and retention services for students with marginalized genders and sexualities to create an inclusive and intersectional campus climate promoting gender justice, sexual liberation, and equity for all people.

<https://www.pcc.edu/queer/>

Veteran's Resource Center

Welcome student veterans! We have an active veterans community that can help you adjust to college life.

<https://www.pcc.edu/veterans/>

Women's Resource Center

Women's Resource Center staff are here to offer connection, resources, and advocacy to support the success of all women and gender minority students. All genders welcome. We apply the principles of intersectional, multicultural feminism to resist and dismantle sexism, racism, and other forms of oppression. **<https://www.pcc.edu/women/>**

REFERENCES & CITATIONS

P. 6-8

- <https://www.ywcaworks.org/blogs/ywca/tue-12212021-1103/whats-difference-between-ally-and-accomplice>
- Learning for Justice. "What's Colorism?". Fall 2015. <https://www.learningforjustice.org/magazine/fall-2015/whats-colorism>
- The study titled "Study Reveals Racial Inequality in Mexico, Disproving Its 'race-Blind...'" can be accessed at www.vanderbilt.edu/lapop/news/121317.mexico-theconversation.pdf. Accessed on 19 May 2023.
- Sanz Espinar, Gemma. "Hacia un nuevo MCER. Objetivo: mediación". *Çédille* 22 (2022): 513–519. doi:10.25145/j.cedille.2022.22.29. ISSN 1699-4949. S2CID 254768115.
- Jablonski, Nina G. "Skin color and race". *American Journal of Physical Anthropology* 175.2 (2021): 437–447. doi:10.1002/ajpa.24200. ISSN 0002-9483. PMC 8247429. PMID 33372701.

p. 9-10

- Ruiz, Neil G. "Discrimination Experiences Shape Most Asian Americans' Lives." Pew Research Center Race & Ethnicity, Pew Research Center, 30 Nov. 2023, www.pewresearch.org/race-ethnicity/2023/11/30/discrimination-experiences-shape-most-asian-americans-lives/.

p. 11

- CNN, S. A. and H. K. (2020, July 7). Everyday words and phrases that have racist connotations. CNN. <https://www.cnn.com/2020/07/06/us/racism-words-phrases-slavery-trnd/index.html>
- Davis, C. S., Dominic-Madori. (n.d.). 12 racist and offensive phrases that people still use all the time. Business Insider. <https://www.businessinsider.com/offensive-phrases-that-people-still-use-2013-11#9-sold-down-the-river-9>

p. 14

- Entrepreneurship: How immigration plays a critical role. (n.d.). New American Economy. <https://www.newamericaneconomy.org/issues/entrepreneurship/#:~:text=So%2C%20it%20comes%20as%20no>
- Immigrant Share of the U.S. Population and Civilian Labor Force, 1980 - Present. (2013, November 15). Migrationpolicy.org. <https://www.migrationpolicy.org/programs/data-hub/charts/immigrant-share-us-population-and-civilian-labor-force>
- Undocumented Immigrant and Starting an LLC in the U.S.? (n.d.). Wwww.incfiile.com. Retrieved November 4, 2023, from <https://www.incfiile.com/blog/undocumented-immigrant-small-business#:~:text=Other%20news%20stories%20cite%20that>
- Semotiuk, A. J. (n.d.). How To Get U.S. Citizenship. Forbes. <https://www.forbes.com/sites/andysemotiuk/2022/07/06/how-to-get-us-citizenship/>
- How Hard Is It To Get US Citizenship? - ESTAForm.org. (2020, June 23). Wwww.estaform.org. <https://www.estaform.org/us-immigration/how-hard-is-to-get-us-citizenship>

p. 15

- Morris, A. (2021, February 3). From Civil Rights to Black Lives Matter. *Scientific American*. <https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/from-civil-rights-to-black-lives-matter1/>
- Black Lives Matter. (n.d.). <https://blacklivesmatter.com/about/>
- Adams, Maurianne. *Readings for Diversity and Social Justice*. Edited by Maurianne Adams et al., 4th ed., New York, Routledge, 24 Mar. 2018.

REFERENCES & CITATIONS cont.

pp.18-19

- Museum, S. A. (2022, June 18). Juneteenth: A history prevailed. SAMBlog. <https://samblog.seattleartmuseum.org/2022/06/juneteenth-at-sam/>
- WDHN - wdh.com. (2021, June 17). Juneteenth colors and its meaning behind the federal holiday. WDHN. <https://www.wdhn.com/news/juneteenth-colors-and-its-meaning-behind-the-federal-holiday/>

pp.20-21

- What is critical race theory: Faqs and more explained. Legal Defense Fund. (2023, December 15). https://www.naacpldf.org/critical-race-theory-faq/?gad_source=1&gclid=Cj0KCQiAn-2tBhDVARIsAGmStVnjMr9UyUIAhRY49p5d_2ziYaYG4PlvpONneoUVzCrStBENkPdGPUaAiqHEALw_wcB

pp.23-24

- Khan, F. A. (2011, July). The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks. The Journal of IMA. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3516052/>

pp. 25-27

- Wall, L. L. (2006, June). The medical ethics of Dr J Marion Sims: A fresh look at the historical record. Journal of medical ethics. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2563360/>
- Alsan, M., & Wanamaker, M. (2018, February). Tuskegee and the health of black men. The quarterly journal of economics. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6258045/>

pp.28-29

- <https://www.oregonmetro.gov/news/metro-hears-chinese-american-community-members-memorial-lone-fir-cemetery>
- <https://www.oregonmetro.gov/news/metro-shares-design-concepts-memorial-project-lone-fir-cemetery> <https://www.oregonlive.com/news/2023/10/metro-releases-renderings-for-chinese-gravesite-memorial-at-lone-fir-cemetery>
- html <https://www.oregonmetro.gov/historic-cemeteries/lone-fir-cemetery>

pp. 30-31

- McCollum, Sean. "This Land Is Your Land." Www.kennedy-center.org, 17 Sept. 2019, www.kennedy-center.org/education/resources-for-educators/classroom-resources/media-and-interactives/media/music/story-behind-the-song/the-story-behind-the-song/this-land-is-your-land/.
- Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage. "This Land Is Whose Land? Indian Country and the Shortcomings of Settler Protest." Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage, 14 June 2019, folklife.si.edu/magazine/this-land-is-whose-land-indian-country-settler-protest.
- The Village Voice. "'This Land Is Your Land': Portrait of a Song as a Bird in Flight by Pete Seeger." The Village Voice, 28 Jan. 2014, www.villagevoice.com/this-land-is-your-land-portrait-of-a-song-as-a-bird-in-flight-by-pete-seeger/. Accessed 8 Dec. 2023.

Want to become a Student Educator?

HELP CHANGE THE WORLD

Apply now for 2025!

THE ILLUMINATION PROJECT

Become a Student Educator with PCC's interactive social justice theater program!

- **8 TUITION FREE SOCIOLOGY CREDITS**
- **Two term commitment (winter and spring terms 2025)**

**FIND MORE
INFORMATION
AND APPLY
ONLINE AT:**



[PCC.EDU/RESOURCES/ILLUMINATION/](https://pcc.edu/resources/illumination/)