

Oral Defense Announcement

University of Missouri – St. Louis Graduate School

An oral examination in defense of the dissertation for the degree
Doctor of Education with an emphasis in Educational Practice

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M.A. in Education-Reading, Fontbonne University, 2010
M.A. in Education-Teaching, Greenville College, 2006
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Confronting Whiteness: When Critical White Studies and Racial Trauma Collide: An Autoethnography

Date: April 10, 2024

Time: 5:30 p.m.

Place: Remote

Abstract

This autoethnographic dissertation research explores Critical White Studies (CWS) and racial trauma and their impact on Students of Color in a higher education setting. This study aims to challenge the deficit thinking of white educators who perpetuate racism in higher education. The relationship is examined to dismantle the white deficit thinking of white educators who believe they share the experiences of their Students of Color regardless of their own similar experiences. Through personal narratives the author will share the complexity of CWS and Racial Trauma. The findings suggest white educators need to examine their white identity and become culturally responsive to the needs and experiences of Students of Color.

In this text, the author purposefully capitalizes “People of Color,” “Students of Color,” “Black” and “Racial Trauma” as a tribute to those who have endured Racial Trauma across history. Conversely, the word “white” is intentionally written in lowercase to distance it from its historical association with power and supremacy.

Defense of Dissertation Committee

Thomasina Hassler, Ed.D. - Chairperson

Janae Alfred, Ph.D. - Co-Chair

Robert Good, Ph.D. - Co. Chair