

Shaun O'Malley  
Critical Reflection #4  
June 6, 2021

This week's readings on resistance are very interesting. At one point, it makes it seem like the best way to discuss or handle sensitive topics in social justice is to cater/pander to people who are in the dominating class. The article dealing with resistance and creating an environment to help diminish resistance is all about finding neutral ways to make the dominant class, oppressor, etc feel safe enough to finally discuss and unravel the important issues that social justice promotes.

BOLD moves are needed. Clearly, there is an issue, clearly it has lasted for a long time, and clearly the message has not been heard clearly, definitively, loudly.

When you look at critical race theory today and what it is promoting though, it seems like there are some hiccups in how it is being perceived and presented. A lot of resistance has popped up about teaching race theory in the classroom in America. I felt that this statement was particularly powerful, "Nor are they personally responsible for oppression. While individuals play a role, systems of inequality are rooted in history and social structures. People from privileged groups certainly have a responsibility to address inequality, yet they alone are not the cause...It is more constructive to have participants think about their role in challenging injustice than feeling blamed for it" (Goodman, 71).

This push for reparations in America, and for white people to say sorry for having oppressed people of color seems like the environment is becoming toxic and negative and creating extra resistance when teaching critical race theory.

There is a conundrum created. How to teach critical race theory without making the oppressor feel like the oppressor. The two metaphors that Goodman describes, the door and the dance are particularly interesting. When you continue to encourage someone to think about the topic, you unfortunately encourage them to put up barriers, doors with bolts, etc and block themselves from discussing the "real topic" at hand.

I also do not believe in sugar-coating the situation. It seems like POC have been fighting for an awfully long time for a seat at the table...to be recognized, to be respected, to be given a fair and equal chance at the American dream and yet here we are today watching POC still discriminated against, attacked, and not given their fair chance.

It makes sense to me why people would rally, would speak out, and would want to finally be heard once and for all. It is ridiculous that even with the civil rights movement, and an entire war fought to bring about equal treatment of POC in America, we are still at this juncture 156 years after the civil war.