

Introduction

Renee Simms, Issue Editor

University of Puget Sound

The *Race and Pedagogy Journal*, established in 2015, is published by the Race and Pedagogy Institute (RPI) at University of Puget Sound. The Institute, along with its Community Partners Forum, was founded and enacted from the intellectual traditions of African American Studies (AFAM). These four stakeholders—the Institute, Journal, Community Partners Forum, and African American Studies—respond collaboratively and independently to emergent issues of race at the intersections of class, gender, sexuality, nationality, and ability. So, when George Floyd was murdered by Minneapolis police on May 25, 2020, RPI and AFAM immediately prepared a community teach-in, “We Can’t Breathe: 400 Years of Institutionalized Violence.” This event, held on June 3, 2020, was attended by over 500 people who participated in a critical discussion of how we inculcate and perpetuate violence in higher education and other institutions.

During the resulting summer of protest, the Journal distributed a call for papers on racism in higher education. How, we wrote, are “institutions of higher learning thinking about, engaging with, and addressing racism on their campuses”? We received dozens of submissions which were read by internal and outside reviewers from across the nation and the United Kingdom. The results are the articles you will read in this special issue. Our call follows the lead of special issues of the *Race and Pedagogy Journal* edited by Dr. LaToya Brackett, Assistant Professor of African American Studies, and Dr. Amy Ryken, Dean of Puget Sound’s Graduate School of Education.

For this issue, we invited two respected scholars, Dr. Lucius T. Outlaw, Jr. and Dr. Altheria Caldera, to serve as our guest editors. They were asked to review the accepted articles and to write introductory essays.

Dr. Outlaw is the W. Alton Jones Professor of Philosophy at Vanderbilt University whose teaching and scholarly interests include racial matters in sociopolitical life. Dr. Outlaw is a pioneer of Africana Philosophy and his publications include *Race and Racism*, *Cornel West: A Reader*, *Race and Philosophy*, and *Critical Social Theory in the Interest of Black Folks*. In February 2017, three years before George Floyd’s murder, Dr. Outlaw gave a lecture at Claremont McKenna on the way white supremacy appears “in the fundamental terms of the ordering” of law enforcement and policing.

Dr. Caldera is a scholar-activist whose research and scholarship are characterized by a commitment to racial equity in education. Dr. Caldera started her career as an English and Language Arts middle school teacher before earning her Ph.D. in Education Studies. In 2020 she was named an Education Policy Fellow by the Intercultural Development and Research Association. Dr. Caldera is an Assistant Professor of

Curriculum and Instruction at Howard University and the Director of Howard's D.C.-Area Writing Project.

In addition to these achievements, both editors have presented papers at the Race and Pedagogy National Conference. Dr. Outlaw attended our inaugural conference in 2006 and Dr. Caldera was at our most recent conference in 2018.

As editors of this issue, Outlaw and Caldera provide necessary framing of the Journal, the Institute, and matters of race and racism. Their essays along with the articles within the issue raise questions such as, How do we negotiate issues of institutionalized racism across disciplines, social locations, and generations? How are the radical activist origins of community health and self-care understood today? What is today's emphasis in critical examinations of race, and how does it relate to what has come before?

These are only some of the discursive explorations in this issue of the Journal. We invite you to continue reading and to submit your work for consideration in future issues.

Thank you to our contributors and guest editors, and to everyone who made this publication possible. A special thank you to Director of African American Studies, Dr. Grace Livingston; Race and Pedagogy Managing Editor Lori Ricigliano; AFAM student interns Tom Okel and Carissa Reidesel; RPI Program Coordinators Anna Mondschean and Aldrin Villahermosa, and to the 2021-2022 leadership of the Associated Student Union of Puget Sound, Grant Konkell and Kayden Diodati.