

# How to Conceptualize an Anti-Racist Research Design

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# Land Acknowledgment

We would like to acknowledge that the land that The Ohio State University occupies is the ancestral and contemporary territory of the Shawnee, Potawatomi, Delaware, Miami, Peoria, Seneca, Wyandotte, Ojibwe and Cherokee peoples. Specifically, the university resides on land ceded in the 1795 Treaty of Greeneville and the forced removal of tribes through the Indian Removal Act of 1830. We want to honor the resiliency of these tribal nations and recognize the historical contexts that has and continues to affect the Indigenous peoples of this land.



# Learning Outcomes

At the conclusion of this presentation, participants will be able to:

- 1.** Define anti-racist research
- 2.** Describe critical race theory and its five tenants
- 3.** Connect critical race theory and anti-racist research design
- 4.** Begin to conceptualize a research design using an anti-racist framework
- 5.** Explain researcher positionality and how to address in research



Whereas racist research historically has posed the question, “What is wrong with people?” antiracist research now asks a different question, a better question: “What is wrong with policies?” Our belief is that framing research on race and racism around antiracist questions leads to antiracist narratives, effective policy solutions, and impactful advocacy campaigns that cut to the root of racial inequality: racist policy.

Taken from the BU Center for Antiracist Research  
<https://www.bu.edu/antiracism-center/>

# Critical Race Theory

- A framework/point of view in which a person can analyze and study racial issues.
  - Began within the framework of U.S. law
  - Tries to address and explain the liberal notions of color blindness.
  - Has expanded to be applied to fields like education



# Tenants of Critical Race Theory

1. Permanence/Centrality of Racism
2. Challenge Neutrality and Colorblindness
3. Interest Convergence
4. Counter storytelling
5. Commitment to Social Justice





[https://www.123rf.com/photo\\_5571008\\_an-arrow-with-your-copyspace-hits-the-bulls-eye-of-a-red-target-dead-center-.html](https://www.123rf.com/photo_5571008_an-arrow-with-your-copyspace-hits-the-bulls-eye-of-a-red-target-dead-center-.html)



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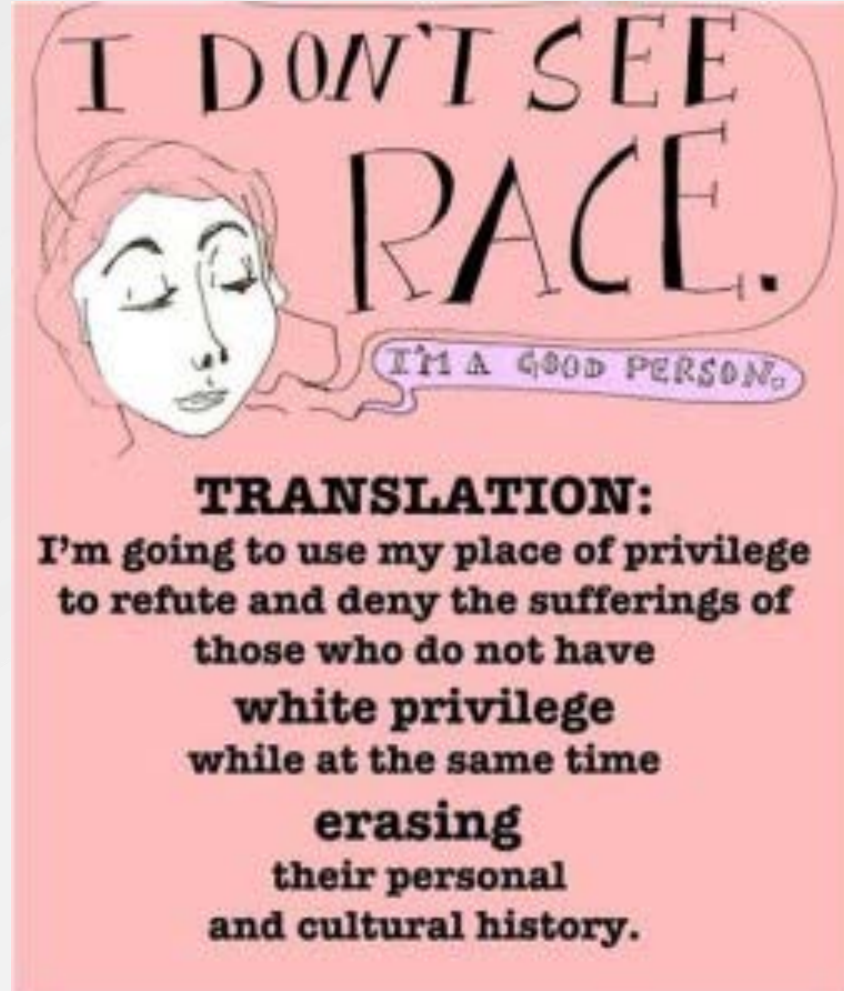
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# **Permanence/ Centrality to Racism**

- The heart of bias and discrimination
- Endemic and not an aberration
  
- Why does racism exist?
- How is it structured?
  
- Research Considerations
  - What role does race have in your research?
  - Can you center your research questions around race?







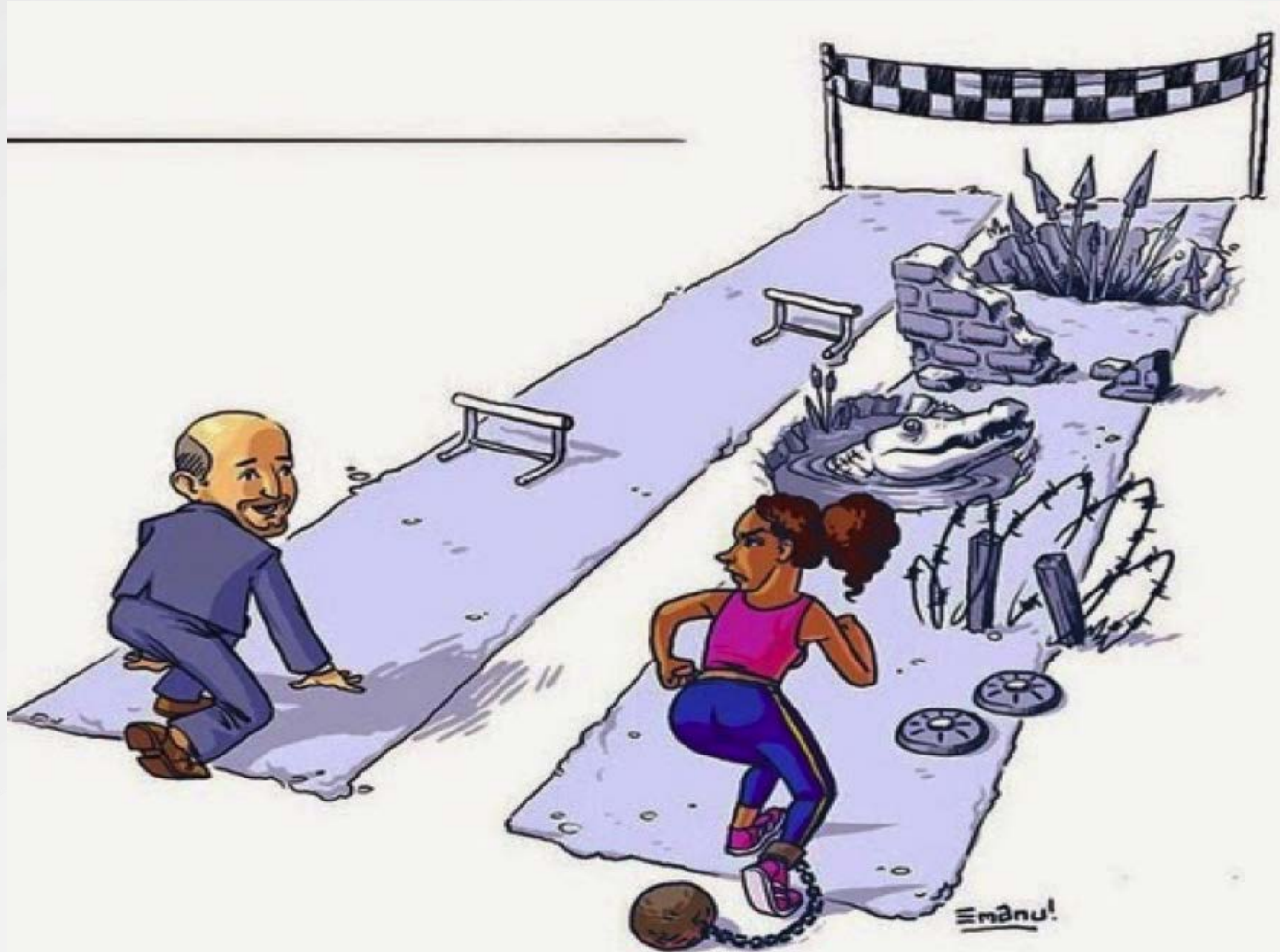
<http://www.debbyirving.com/qa/when-it-comes-to-race-im-colorblind-i-try-to-be-kind-to-everyone-isnt-that-enough/>



# Challenges to Neutrality and Colorblindness

- Impartiality and neutrality do not exist
- Importance of acknowledging diversity within our communities
- Research considerations:
  - Important to not ignore race and not to center our designs around neutrality
  - Avoid use of deficit language
  - Avoid neutral statements that have racists connotations (e.g., “achievement gap” or “at risk for learning difficulties”)





<https://medium.com/applied-intersectionality/acknowledging-privilege-between-race-and-gender-44265cfafb63>

# **Interest Convergence**

- Assumption that white people benefit from racial policy.
- How do policy and/or education practices impact your study?
- What populations are these policies/practices benefiting and in what ways?





<https://www.useyourvoice.nl/find-your-voice-and-make-it-heard/>



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# Counterstory -telling

- People of color are the only authority to speak about racialized experiences
- In what ways can you tell their story?
- Can illustrate the permanence of racism
- How can you structure your research design to focus on the stories of BIPOC?





<http://www.attheepicenter.com/social-justice-conscious-leadership-imperative/>



# Commitment to Social Justice

- Using the results of your study to create social change
- In what ways can your results be disseminated to the policymakers and others in the community?





# Framing your Study around CRT

- In what ways can your study be framed around the 5 tenants of CRT?

Philanthropy + Scholars + Policy Experts + Journalists +  
Advocates + Policymakers → Interdisciplinary teams



Locate Yourself

# Researcher Positionality



- How does your position influence your research (e.g., political views, race, social class, etc.)?
- How do you view yourself in relation to participants?
- Where are you in the research context and process?



# Are you In or Out?

## Insider

- Commonalities with research participants
- "Legitimate member of the community"
- Provides better social and cultural insights
- Increased sensitivity
- "Backyard" research

## Outsider

- Enters a community to conduct research
- Different views than the participants
- Less bias-could gain greater insight
- Has to always check privilege



# Positionality

- Impacts how a problem is identified
- Determines who is believed to have the "problem"
- Assists in identifying the solution
- Outlines whether the work is with, for, to or on behalf of a population
- Provides a filter to analyze data
- Shapes the findings, discussions and implications articulated as outcomes of the work



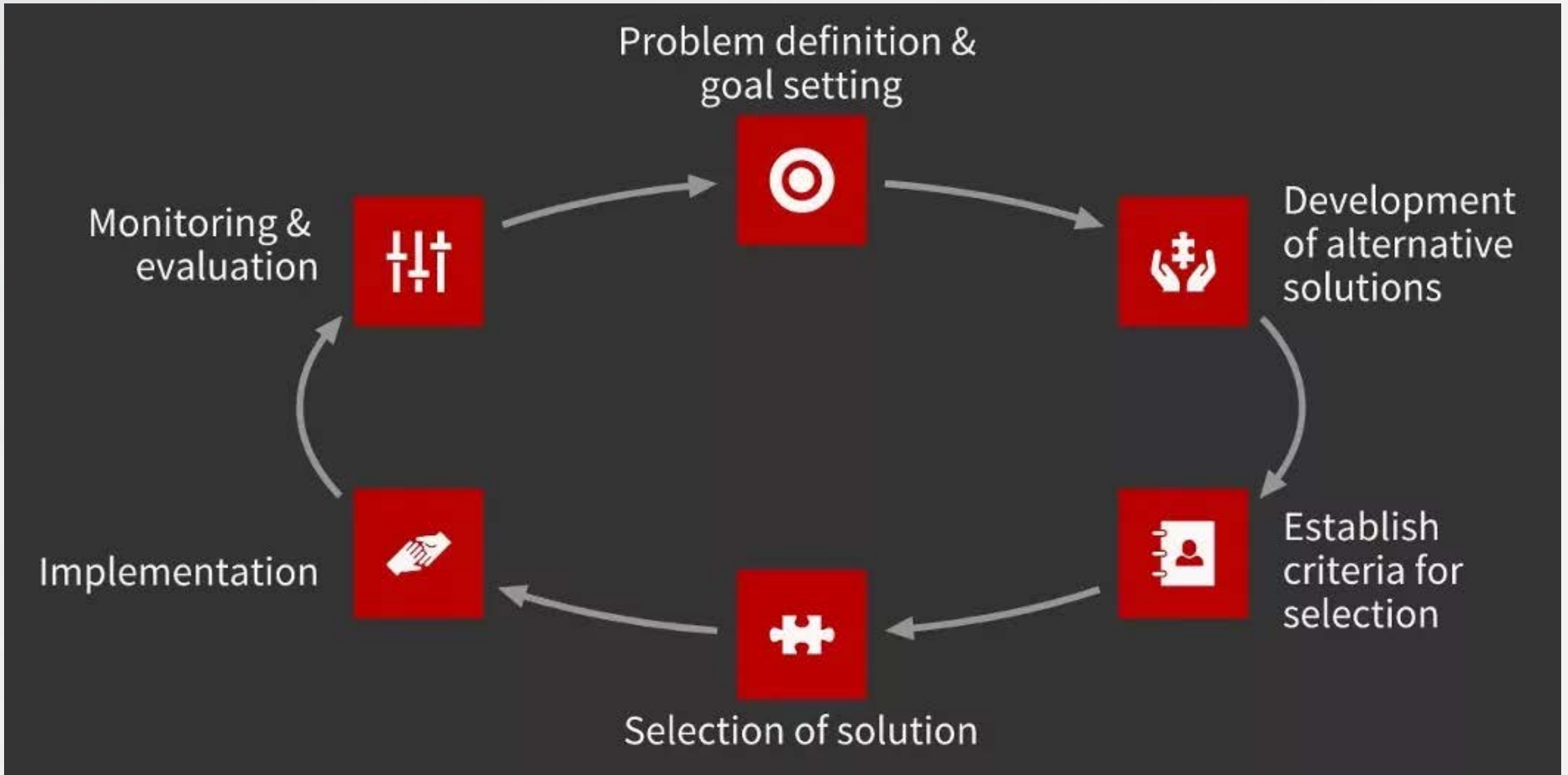
# Looking through an Intersectionality Lens

Provides a sensitive lens to understand the experiences of those who have experienced historical and consistent discrimination, exclusion and disadvantage



"Individuals have individual identities that intersect in ways that impact how they are viewed, understood and treated," Crenshaw, 2019





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# **RACE: If we are not...**

- **Seeing**
- **Sensing**
- **Hearing**
- **Attending to**
- **Responding to**

**We are doing a disservice to ourselves, the participants and society.**



# What can I do?

1. Responsibly review the literature
2. Revisit your position, constantly
3. Review the intersections of identities
4. Recruit a research cultural broker
5. Recenter the work
6. Radically address race, power, and privilege
7. Reframe the discourse





# The Most Effective Way to Do Anti-Racist Research

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Do your anti-racist work



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**Thank you!**

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# Questions?

