**RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS**

**THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGICAL SCIENCE**

**HISTORICAL BLACK FIGURES IN PSYCHOLOGY**

**Dr. Mamie Phipps Clark**

Mamie Phipps Clark, along with her husband Kenneth Clark, did pioneering research exploring how racial prejudice impacted child development. Her work in Social Psychology was instrumental to ending school segregation in the Brown v. Board of Education case of 1954. This was the first time social science research was used in a Supreme Court case. In an era of scientific racism, Mamie’s research demonstrated that Black children were not limited by innate biological differences, but by social and economic barriers to success. Learn more about Dr. Clark [here](#).

**Dr. Joseph L. White**

Joseph L. White is known as the “Father of Black Psychology” because he exposed the implicit whiteness that is centered in the field of psychology (i.e., education, research, and professional training). He helped create California’s Educational Opportunity Program to increase minority students’ access to higher education and founded the Association of Black Psychologists. Learn more about Dr. White [here](#).
Realizing Yoga’s all-access pass: a social justice critique of westernized yoga and inclusive embodiment
Jennifer B. Webb, PhD

Yoga has become increasingly recognized and researched as a useful tool for fostering positive self affect, body image, as well as a useful intervention for eating disorders. In a recent paper, Dr. Webb and her team provide a broad critique of westernized Yoga from a social justice lens on inclusive embodiment. This includes an assessment of the barriers that may keep people from trying yoga (e.g., gender identity, sexuality, race/ethnicity, age, and disability) as well as potential ways to overcome said barriers.

The effect of traditionally marginalized groups in advertising on consumer response
Enrica Ruggs, PhD

Dr. Ruggs and her team explored how companies advertise using socially conscious messaging and depictions of diversity, also known as “activist advertising”. This article presents research examining how customers responded to these types of messages and their potential purchase behavior. This research is timely given the recent increase in many companies utilizing “activist advertising” with messages in support of Black Lives Matter and commitments to anti-racism, along with other social justice initiatives, to sell their products.
Kenneth and Mamie Clark Biography
Claire Merenda

I am Psyched for Black History Month
American Psychological Association

"I am psyched for Black History Month: Three Black women discuss what led them to pursue psychology as a career, dealing with racism and sexism, and what life lessons they would share with the next generation of women and girls going into the field."

Click here for the full, 51 minute discussion

Speaking of Psychology: Parenting through the pandemic with Erlanger Turner, PhD

During this podcast, Dr. Earl Turner examines the fatigue families are feeling during the pandemic. Dr. Turner discusses how to talk to children about COVID-19, as well as how families might be positively adapting.

Speaking of Psychology: The invisibility of white privilege with Brian Lowery, PhD

This podcast explores how racial privilege manifests in the US and why White Americans can be blind to this. Dr. Brian Lowery discusses how psychology can be used as a framework for understanding white privilege and how to dismantle it.

The Black Therapist Podcast: We are not okay, Activism, Social Justice, and Self care

Nikita Banks talks about the collective trauma Black Americans have experienced as a result of the pandemic and police violence. She also highlights the need for Black therapists and her approach to providing culturally-competent support for her clients. (*Warning: explicit content)
Police Brutality as a Public Health Issue

In this work, public health scholars investigated the link between poor health outcomes and police brutality among Black people. Researchers identified several oppressive structures that systematically disempower the Black community. According to Alang et al. (2017), hearing stories, witnessing, and/or experiencing police brutality while having to worry about becoming a victim are all stressors. Threats produce hormones and trigger survival systems in the short term, and the recurring stressor of police brutality persistently deteriorates organs and functioning of the body which may lead to conditions like diabetes, stroke, autoimmune disorders and death.

Two Different Pandemics

This think piece describes how our Black colleagues are disproportionately impacted by the pandemic and social justice movement. We must be aware and urge our colleagues to “acknowledge that burden is falling on [our] Black colleagues disproportionately.”

MLK’s Advice to Social and Behavioral Scientists

Martin Luther King Jr. is one of the most notable historical figures of the Civil Rights Movement, inspiring change in all areas of our society. In 1967, Dr. King gave a speech to the American Psychological Association urging social scientists to utilize their work to further the efforts of the Civil Rights Movement. This article highlights select sections of his address in which Dr. King describes how social science can aid Black Americans. While this speech was given over fifty years ago, Dr. King’s words are still true today. We encourage all students and faculty to read this piece and consider how his calls to action might be incorporated into your own work.

RESOURCES

Right now, Black Americans are dealing with more stressors than ever and how they handle those stressors can make all the difference in their mental health. We have compiled a list of resources where interested folx can find a Black therapist in their area. Black therapists report a better understanding of the Black lived experience(s) and solidarity with Black clients. Once you are ready, find your Black therapist here:

- The Association of Black Psychologists Therapist Resource Directory
- Black Therapists Rock Therapist Resource Directory
- Psychology Today Therapist Resource Directory
- Therapy for Black Girls Therapist Resource Directory