

On the concentric cycle of racism in Australia

H.T. Demosthenous¹,

¹Griffith University.

This paper examines how social structures and individual processes transform the humiliation of the dominated into the enraged violence of the dominator in racist societies, such as ours. In Australia, all too often racism is depicted through social media, and consequenced by the imbalances of power. The social structures of power within which we live are not merely situational settings, but also serve to constrain and free us. Individuals internalise values and attitudes during, in and through the socialisation process. It is through this process that the oppression and humiliation of the least powerful members of society becomes the norm into which most of us have been unconsciously conditioned. Similarly, when social structures are humiliating they do not merely constitute humiliating situations but are internalised as memories that inform our identity; as humiliator or humiliated. What characterises these social structures and personal experiences of humiliation is that they are always dualistic in nature. In other words, such characterisations can be dichotomously represented as the bipolar opposites of the *oppressor* and the *oppressed*, the *powerful* and the *powerless*, the *haves* and the *have-nots*, the *humiliators* and the *humiliated*, the *proactive* aggressors and the *reactive* aggressors, and the *racists* and the *non-racists*. In essence, the paper considers the crimes of the humiliator and the crimes of the humiliated as different sides of the story of racism in Australia.

Please select relevant theme

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Manifestations and Impacts of Racism
<input type="checkbox"/>	Fear, Nationalism and Race Hate
<input type="checkbox"/>	Racism in Specific Contexts
<input type="checkbox"/>	Developing Anti-Racist Futures - Visualizing alternatives for the future

Contact details:

Dr Hellene T. Demosthenous, PhD

Email: h.demosthenous@griffith.edu.au

Phone: 0466 211 640