

New Zealand Journal of Psychology
Special Issue Call for Papers

Unmasking Racism and Oppression in Psychology

Rationale of the Special Issue

Racism is an organised system, based on an ideology of superiority and inferiority, that discriminates, segregates, persecutes, or mistreats individuals along a racial hierarchy that upholds white supremacy and oppression of Indigenous peoples and peoples of colour. Racism generates and sustains a global power hierarchy that is politically (re)produced through colonialism, capitalism, imperialism, heteropatriarchy, cisgenderism, ableism and other forms of unjust oppression. Racism and oppression extend from internalised, interpersonal, institutional, to systemic forms that impact on the equitable presence of Māori, Pasifika, Asian, Indigenous peoples, BIPOC, and BAME peoples and their communities across all areas of psychology.

The many decades of critical discourses in Aotearoa New Zealand and globally have produced a body of research and literature that illustrates the unchanged operation of settler colonialism, racism and oppression in psychology. In Aotearoa, studies have identified the monocultural (Eurocentric) nature of psychology, with few initiatives made to respond to the Waitangi Tribunal claim (Levy, 2018). Meanwhile, discourses of “reconciliation” with Indigenous psychologists have gained prominence. International psychology bodies (e.g., American Psychological Association, 2021; Australian Psychological Society, 2017) have issued apologies to Indigenous peoples and peoples of colour for failing to challenge racism and for inflicting intergenerational harms. While apologies are crucial to seeking truth and forging a path for reconciliation and justice, the fundamental structure of psychology that is still embedded in the politics of whiteness ought to be appropriately scrutinised.

The aim of this special issue is to invite contributions that unmask the operations of racism and oppression, sustained by white supremacist ideology, across all areas of psychology and their impact on individuals, groups and institutions. We also seek to highlight the counter strategies that inspire alignment to constitutional transformation and decolonising frameworks to create an anti-racist, anti-oppressive psychology. We also invite contributions that enact the vision of the Te Tiriti o Waitangi to engender equal outcomes (mana ōrite) for Māori, Pākehā, and people of colour in Aotearoa. Te Tiriti o Waitangi can serve as a relational framework to warrant Indigenous sovereignty (Jackson & Mutu, 2016). In this special issue, we hope to grow the scholarship of Te Tiriti as an anti-racist framework and an “ethic of restoration” (Jackson, 2020) to uphold Māori tino rangatiratanga through decolonising psychology.

Expected contributions for the Special Issue

We invite culturally-informed contributions from scholars, researchers, and practitioners to provide commentaries, reviews, and empirical papers that address any dimensions of racism and oppression in psychology; including: 1) cost (analysis on the impacts of racism, racialised inequalities or oppression); 2) systems (institutional systems through which the costs of racism are perpetuated); 3) responses (personal, community, and organisational anti-racism responses). We welcome (counter)storytelling from members of Indigenous and minoritised communities. Authors are encouraged to draw on critical Indigenous, or anti-racism theories or constitutional documents relevant to their context (e.g., Te Tiriti o Waitangi; United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP); Social and Emotional Wellbeing (SEWB); Matike Māi Aotearoa; Maranga Mai!). Scholarship on decolonising psychological practice and applied work in communities are strongly encouraged.

We welcome proposals on themes related to topics including:

- Racism and racialisation of Indigenous peoples and peoples of colour in psychology
- Intersectionality: Experiences of oppression along multiple and overlapping axes of identities

- Pūrākau and counter-storytelling as psychological theory and practice
- Allyship and solidarities to eradicate racism and decolonise psychology
- Te Tiriti o Waitangi-embedded solutions to racism in psychology
- Kaupapa Māori theory
- Discourses of biculturalism, multiculturalism and diversity in psychology
- Indigenous and culturally-informed practice exemplars
- Environmental equity: climate change and racial justice
- Indigenous data sovereignty and the coloniality of surveillance
- Prison abolition and reimagining criminal justice system
- Conscientisation or “consciousness-raising” as transformative/liberatory praxis
- Unmasking “privilege” and “whiteness” and their psychological consequences
- Healing from the impacts of racism and oppression

Authors are encouraged to include a positionality statement to demonstrate their reflexivity regarding how their identity, epistemology, and values relate to the research topic. Interdisciplinary papers are welcomed under this call. We also welcome international contributions, provided they relate to the themes of this journal. Creative outputs such as poems and illustrations can be included as part of a paper.

Deadlines and submission process

Submission deadlines:

Letter of intent deadline: 2nd February 2024

Invitation to submit will be sent out: by 15th March 2024

Manuscript submission deadline: 2nd August 2024

You can discuss a potential contribution by contacting one of the Guest Editors directly. Interested contributors should submit a letter of interest (LOI) consisting of no more than 500-word abstract to Dr Waikaremoana Waitoki (moana.waitoki@waikato.ac.nz) and Dr Kyle Tan (k.tan@waikato.ac.nz). Guidelines for authors are available at <https://nzjp.scholasticahq.com/for-authors>

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