Integrating Social Justice in Pedagogy

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Land Acknowledgement

Denver was originally the land of the Arapaho Nation. In 1864, the Sand Creek Massacre resulted in the deaths of hundreds of Arapaho and Cheyenne people, and soon after these nations would be forced out of Colorado. Other indigenous nations native to Colorado include the Apache, Comanche, Shoshone, and Ute.

Resource extraction, colonial settlement, forcible relocation, and genocide of indigenous people by white settlers and Usian government decrees have forever changed the histories, heritages, and cultures of indigenous nations throughout this land.

In the spirit of Accessing Higher Ground’s mission, I urge attendees to donate to the Native American College Fund, so that indigenous students may also access Higher Education.

https://collegefund.org/
Critically Conscious Pedagogy

• Roots in the work of Paulo Friere
  • Focuses on the role of oppression and privilege in maintaining societal and personal cycles of harm
  • “Every piece of content we teach makes a statement about what we value” Carr-Chellman

• Chela Sandoval “Methodology of the Oppressed”
  • “commitment to the equal distribution of power”
  • recognizing semiotics of oppression, deconstructing systems of supremacy, constructing new meanings, and deploying differential perceptions into public consciousness
Origins of Social Justice in Practice

• Historic:
  • Underground Railroad, 1786+
  • Harlem Housewives League, 1920s; Harlem YCWA 1930s
  • Combahee River Collective, 1974-1980

• Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ) Theory of Change, 2009
• Principles of Solidarity, Occupy Wallstreet, 2011
• Sins Invalid, 10 principles of Disability Justice, 2015
• 13 Principles of Black Lives Matter, 2016
Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ)

The SURJ Theory of Change

• Delegitimize racist institutions
• Fight for a fair economy
  • that refuses to pit communities against each other
• Shift culture
  • (meaning the underlying beliefs folks have about people and the world)
  • in a way that undermines support for white supremacy
Principles of Solidarity, Occupy Wallstreet

• Direct and Transparent Participatory Democracy
• Personal and Collective Responsibility
• Recognizing Privilege and its influence on interaction
• Empower one another against oppression
• Redefine how labor is valued
• Sanctity of Individual Privacy
• Education is a human right
• Democratization of making, knowledge, and culture (Seize the means)
Disability Justice, Sins Invalid, Patty Berne

1. INTERSECTIONALITY
2. LEADERSHIP OF THOSE MOST IMPACTED
3. ANTI-CAPITALIST POLITIC
4. COMMITMENT TO CROSS-MOVEMENT ORGANIZING
5. RECOGNIZING WHOLENESS
6. SUSTAINABILITY
7. COMMITMENT TO CROSS-DISABILITY SOLIDARITY
8. INTERDEPENDENCE
9. COLLECTIVE ACCESS
10. COLLECTIVE LIBERATION
13 Principles, Black Lives Matter

1. Diversity
2. Globalism (Diaspora, Interconnection)
3. Black Women
4. Black Villages
5. Loving Engagement
6. Restorative Justice
7. Collective Value
8. Empathy
9. Queer Affirming
10. Unapologetically Black
11. Transgender Affirming
12. Black Families
13. Intergenerational
Design Justice Network (Design by Listening)

• Design to sustain, heal, empower, liberate
• Center the voices of those directly impacted
• Impact over intention
• Accountable, accessible, and collaborative process
• Designer as facilitator, not expert
• Share design knowledge and tools
• Sustainable, community-led and –controlled outcomes
• Non-exploitative solutions
• Look for what is already working
Warning

The next slide will not coddle your feelings
Compare to Neoliberal Cooptation

Social Justice in Academia
- SJ as something to learn rather than something that is lived
- “Diversity & Inclusion”
- Lack of acknowledgement of continuing practices of Institutional Exploitation

Social Justice in Activist Movements
- Center the oppressed
- Collective Solidarity
- Direct Action
- Intersectional
  - Anti-racist
  - Anti-colonial
  - Anti-queerphobic
  - Anti-ableist
Examples from Computer Science

Introductory CS Coursework
- Histories of Women, POC, LGBTQ, and Disabled computer scientists
- Histories of Indigenous Maths and Logics

Assistive Technology
- Critical Disability Studies perspectives
- “Crip Technoscience”
- Participatory and ethnographic methodologies

Machine Learning
- Critical Race Theory
- Science and Technology Studies – critical understandings of surveillance
Examples from Computer Science

Introductory CS Coursework

- Histories of Women, POC, LGBTQ, and Disabled computer scientists
- Histories of Indigenous Maths and Logics

Resources:

- “A Brief History of Women in Computing” by Faruq Ates
- “Hidden Figures”
- “Programming Pride: 10 LGBTQ Pioneers of Computer Science” by David Gaule
- “Living Knowledge: Indigenous Knowledge in Science Education”
- YOUR LIBRARIAN
Examples from Computer Science

Resources:
- “Reflexivity in Digital Anthropology” Jennifer Rode
- “‘Nothing about us without us’: Transforming participatory research and ethics in human systems engineering” Williams & Gilbert

Assistive Technology
- Critical Disability Studies perspectives
- “Crip Technoscience”
- Participatory and ethnographic methodologies

- Catalyst Special Issue on CripTechnoscience
- Textbook “Disability and Technology”
- Book “Mapping Access” Aimie Hamraie
- YOUR LIBRARIAN
Examples from Computer Science

Resources:
- “Race After Technology” Ruha Benjamin
- “Captivating Technology” ed. Ruha Benjamin
- “Dark Matters” Simone Brown
- “Algorithms of Oppression” Safiya Umoje Noble
- “Weapons of Math Destruction” Cathy O’Neil
- Damien Patrick Williams
- Morgan Klaus Scheuerman
- Os Keyes
- YOUR LIBRARIAN

Machine Learning
- Critical Race Theory
- Science and Technology Studies – critical understandings of surveillance
Recap

• Add Historical and Political context to lessons
• Reflective exercises introducing critical theory literature
• Community-Based, Participatory, and Transformative Methodologies
Group Work Time!
Thank you for your attention

• Questions??