

GETTING STARTED: EMBEDDING CHILD & YOUTH RESEARCH WITH AN ANTI-RACIST FRAME

"The only way to undo racism is to constantly identify it and describe it—then dismantle it."

— Ibram X. Kendi

This guide will help youth advocate researchers begin the process of dismantling systems of racism in their areas of youth study. The guiding questions and reflection points move us towards critical systemic changes by encouraging researchers to identify the influence of historical power structures (Past), consider their own role within the research community (Present) and develop strategies to challenge and disrupt oppressive systems in their research (Future). A **Resource List on our website** provides information to deepen understanding through examples of anti-racist research, critical frameworks, and additional tools for self-reflection.

PAST: Name, Acknowledge, and Critique Historical Power Differentials

Guiding Question: How have systems of oppression been reinforced historically?

- Who has benefited from research and policies in the past?
- How has data been used to benefit those in power?
- Who are the youth who have been and continue to be marginalized, stereotyped, silenced, pathologized and commodified?

PRESENT: Contextualize Role of Academic Field and Personal Identity

Guiding Question: How are oppressive systems maintained today?

- What are the ongoing potential shortcomings of the current system?
- Who has been in power and how are power structures maintained today?
- How might your personal identity contribute to oppressive systems within your research field, in academia and in our society?

FUTURE: Challenge Systems of Oppression Impacting Youth

Guiding Question: How can you disrupt systems of power in your research?

- Avoid data bias. Contextualize your data.
- Avoid deficit language. Frame problems and solutions to challenge systems, not individuals.
- Reduce the research voice and elevate the youth voice.
- Consider youth resiliency necessitated by oppressive systems.
- Provide anti-racist system recommendations for policy, research, and practice.

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Anti-racist, Inclusive, and Resilient: Pitfalls, lessons and advances in research strategies
concerning Black youth in the U.S., with Dexter Voisin, PhD*

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