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The 2020 Q

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Black History Month: a Provocation and a Timeline

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The timeline records shifts in the policy and practice focus 1948-2018:

From the post-war period of assimilation based on a viewing of black lives and experiences as pathological or deficit.

Through a perio

Anti-Racist Approaches to Social Work

Anti-Racists scholars, researchers and practitioners sought to make visible the ways racial and racist processes manifested in social work.

Racial discrimination remains deeply embedded in institutions

Racial practices embedded in institutional practices

Anti-Racist and Black Perspectives

Anti-racist and black perspectives signalled a significant shift in the discourse on oppression in social work practice and education.

Called attention to racial practices and colourblindness in:

Mental Health; Children in Care; Child Protection; Social Work Education

CCETSW's anti-racist initiative

-racist initiative was influenced by discussions that took place among black and white social work academics and practitioners who were concerned about racism in the field of social work.

CCETSW's anti-racist initiative

1989 CCETSW introduced the Rules and Regulations for the Diploma in Social Work (Paper 30), which made it a compulsory requirement for social work students to

The Demise of Anti-



The Demise of Anti-Racist Social Work

Some noted that the main criticisms levelled at anti-racist perspectives have been that it is seen as reductionist, and offers formulaic approaches, and that categories such as black and black perspectives are poorly defined (Williams, 1999).



The Demise of Anti-Racist Social Work

The 21st century has seen a noticeable shift in the language and framing of race and anti-racism (Lavalette & Penketh 2014)

A shift away from what was originally perceived as a radical position, towards narratives that are more

The Demise of Anti-Racist Social Work

In the current neo-liberal context, a neo-assimilationist language of diversity and difference has emerged, largely replacing the discourse of anti-racism (Williams & Bernard, 2018)



The Demise of Anti-Racist Social Work



Looking Back and Looking Forward

It is clear that despite many debates about anti-oppressive practice, and the growth in the knowledge base, questions about race still remains under-examined in social work. Race and racism has become unsayable and culture has reappeared as the predominant explanatory framework (Williams & Bernard, 2018, p389)



Looking Back and Looking Forward

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this age of complex migration and diverse racial demographics what might emerge as the dominant orientation to how we prepare social workers for a sophisticated response? The challenge for contemporary scholars is to shift the paradigm, to push forward thinking and to re-engage with this historical context and its relevance in formulating new pathways.



Looking Forward

What are the challenges and opportunities for continuing debates about the language and framings of race and racism in social work education and practice?



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