

Derick Agyenim-Boateng, Janay Draughn, Indya Gettings

Background

- Black youth are growing up in a time characterized by a heightened visibility to white supremacy and structural racism^{3,5}
- A recent study suggests that Black youth experience discrimination up to 5 times a day²
- Racism has adverse effects on the wellbeing and life trajectory of Black youth^{1,4}

Research Objectives

1. Identify how consciousness has been conceptualized and examined
2. Examine the characteristics of Black youth's consciousness and action to contest racism
3. Identify what sources shape Black youth's consciousness and action

Methodology

Black Consciousness Study Group

- We analyzed theoretical and empirical papers related to sociopolitical development and critical consciousness

Black Youth IMPACT Qualitative Study

We are conducting two, 60-minute, semi-structured interviews with Black youth (ages 13-17) in Philadelphia where we discuss:

1. Beliefs about racism and racial justice
2. Actions they take to contest racism

Sociopolitical Development → "the process by which individuals acquire the knowledge, analytical skills, emotional faculties, and the capacity for action in political and social systems necessary to interpret and resist oppression." (Watts, 1999)

Critical Consciousness → "a sociopolitical version of critical thinking, in enhancing an awareness of sociopolitical as well as personal forces that influence behavior (Watts, 2003)

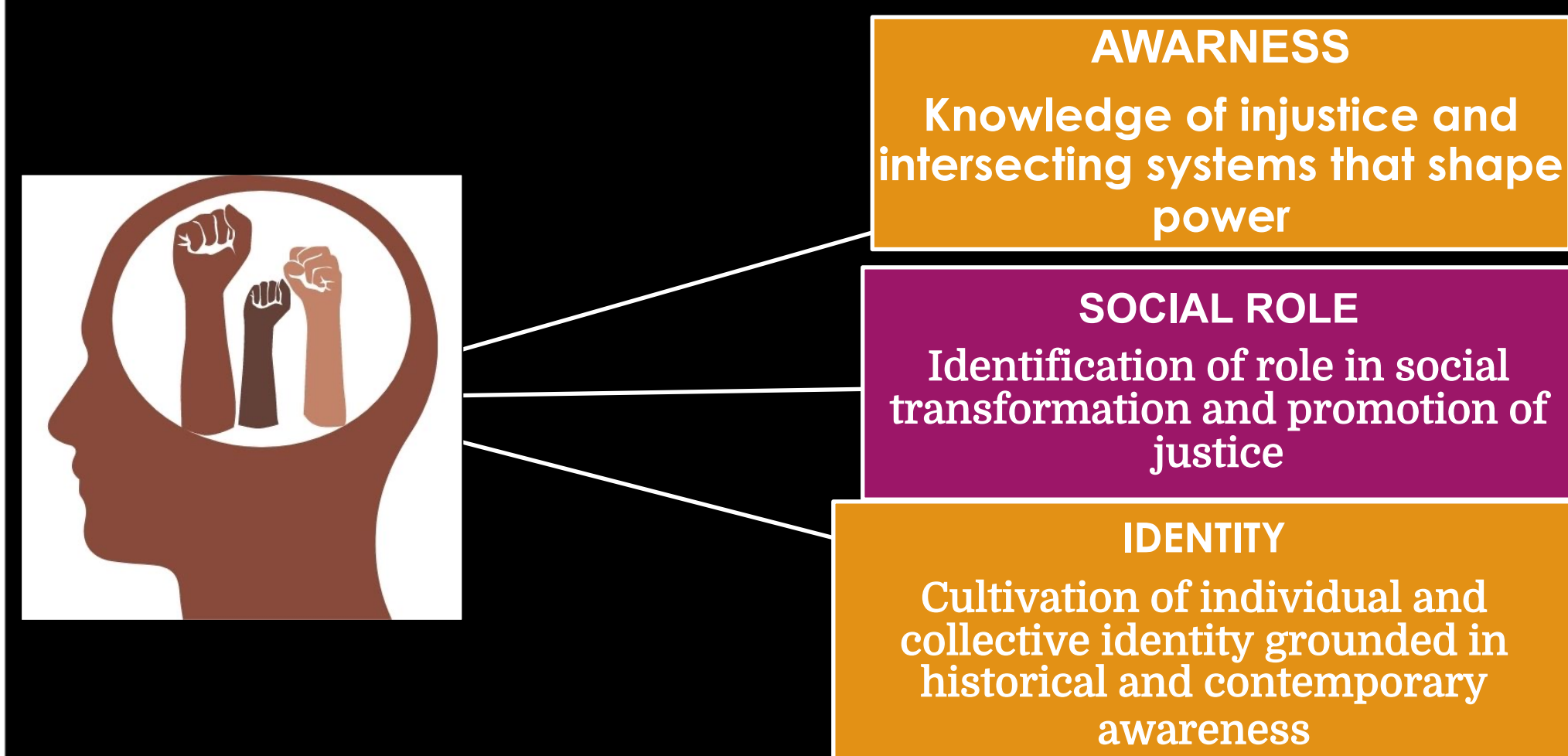
Community Engagement

Our goal is to disseminate the knowledge we gained and make sociopolitical development and critical consciousness research, that's about Black youth, available to Black youth and their broader communities.

- We read and outlined foundational and relevant texts to build our consciousness around racially significant topics
- Created social media accounts for the projects and produced infographics and videos related to the research themes and topics
- Hope to continue to build the Black Consciousness Study Group with an archive of article outlines and social media posts
- Partnered with community organizations to formulate interview questions and to share final findings

Black Consciousness Study Group Findings

Our analysis of literature identified the following themes in the characterization of consciousness:



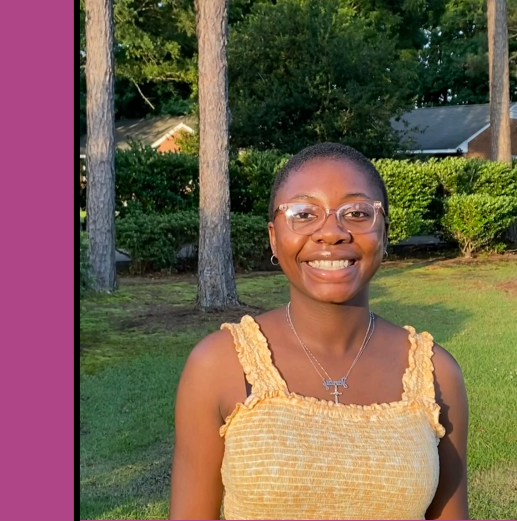
Roles



Derick Agyenim-Boateng
Social Media Coordinator



Indya Gettings
Recruitment Coordinator



Janay Draughn
Data Management Coordinator



Preliminary Qualitative Findings

Preliminary analysis of first few interviews revealed the following themes:

Perceptions of Racism

- Pervasive across multiple domains in society
- Unfair judgement and treatment based on race

What Shapes Perceptions

- Community shapes understandings of racism (e.g., family, friends, and teachers)
- Vicarious experiences of racism

Effects of Racism

- Racism is a source of anger, frustration, and stress
- Personal and vicarious experiences serve as motivation for actions towards racial justice

Conclusion & Implications

- Most participants believe that racism is everywhere and a very significant problem in society
- Many can identify racism in schools, the media, and in other sectors of society
- There is a need for adequate community programming in to:
 1. help alleviate the effects of racism
 2. help youth navigate racism as well as find their voice and engage in more activism.

References

1. Bryant-Davis, T., & Ocampo, C. (2005). The trauma of racism: Implications for counseling, research, and education. *The Counseling Psychologist*, 33(4), 574-578.
2. English, D., Lambert, S. F., Tynes, B. M., Bowleg, L., Zea, M. C., & Howard, L. C. (2020). Daily multidimensional racial discrimination among Black US American adolescents. *Journal of Applied Developmental Psychology*, 66, 101068.
3. Gal, Shayanne, et al. "26 Simple Charts to Show Friends and Family Who Aren't Convinced Racism Is Still a Problem in America." *Business Insider*, <https://www.businessinsider.com/us-systemic-racism-in-charts-graphs-data-2020-6>. Accessed 16 Aug. 2021.
4. Lanier, Paul. "Racism Is an Adverse Childhood Experience (ACE)." *The Jordan Institute for Families*, 2 July 2020, <https://jordaninstituteforfamilies.org/2020/racism-is-an-adverse-childhood-experience-ace/>.
5. Moffitt, Ursula. "White Supremacists Who Stormed US Capitol Are Only the Most Visible Product of Racism." *The Conversation*, <http://theconversation.com/white-supremacists-who-stormed-us-capitol-are-only-the-most-visible-product-of-racism-152295>. Accessed 16 Aug. 2021.

Acknowledgements

Special thanks to Dr. Nkemka Anyiwo, our mentor and the founder of Black Youth IMPACT, Dr. Howard Stevenson, Dr. Brian Stevenson and Makuu: The Black Cultural Center at Penn, and Steicy de Paiva, Sylvia Garrett, and Kayla Holloway for contributing to the past and continued success of this project.