



Prifysgol Cymru
Y Drindod Dewi Sant
University of Wales
Trinity Saint David

Trawsnewid Addysg; Trawsnewid Bywydau
Transforming Education; Transforming Lives



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ECAY5003: The Evolving Landscape of Advocacy Provision

Racial Inequality
2023

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Cautionary Note: Real Examples used



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Stephen Lawrence

- Respectfully:
- 22 April 1993 - Stephen Lawrence was murdered
- The 18-year-old was stabbed to death in an unprovoked attack by a gang of white youths as he waits at a bus stop in Eltham, south-east London, with his friend Duwayne Brooks.



Stephen Lawrence – Systematic Racism

- The BBC (2018) Identify the Stephen Lawrence Murder: A Timeline of how the 'story' unfolded
 - As the 25th anniversary of the murder of teenager Stephen Lawrence approaches, his mother Doreen has suggested 'it is time for the police investigation to be closed'.
 - [The Night before Stephen Died](#) - 1998
- "Mr Brooks claimed when the police arrived one officer threatened to handcuff him because he was "getting hysterical".
- "He said another officer later asked him if he or Stephen had a criminal record and then said: "Are you sure they called you niggers ?"

22nd Apr. 1993

Stephen Lawrence is Murdered

- It is one of the recent developments in the long-running story surrounding Stephen's murder in 1993

4th May 1993

Family express frustrations

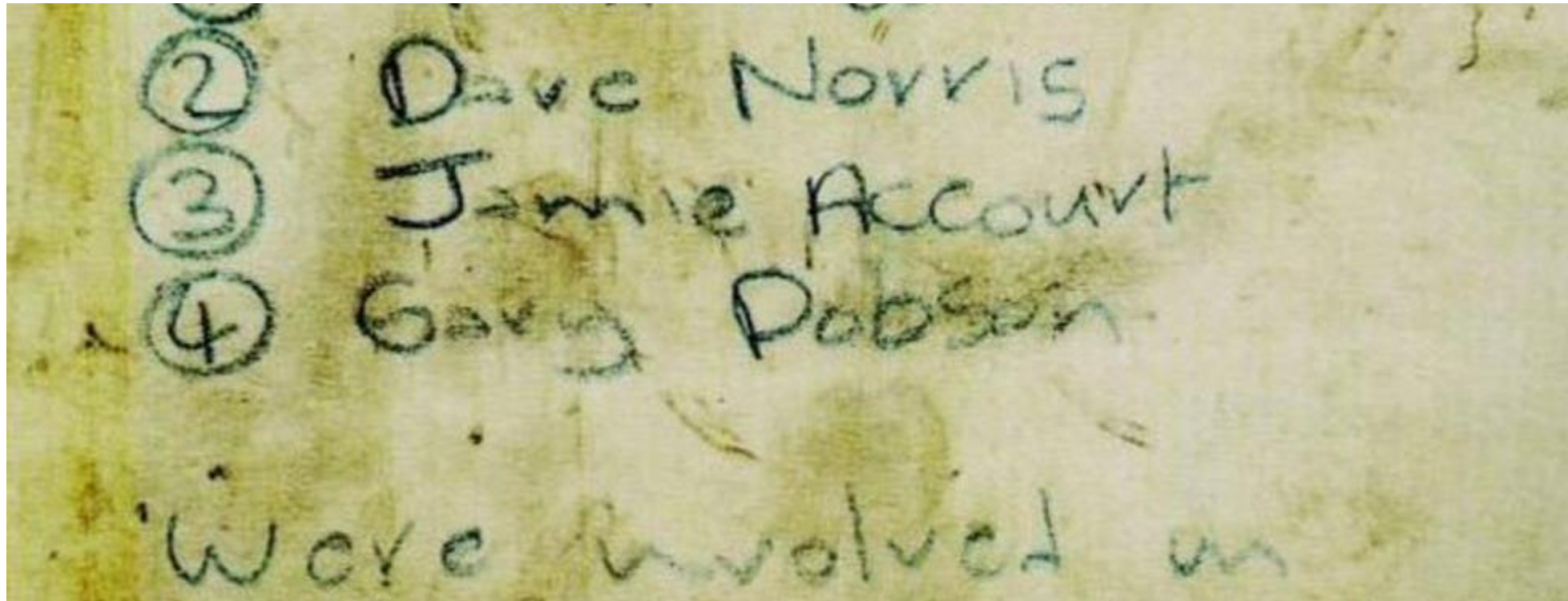
- Stephen's family hold a press conference to complain not enough is being done to catch the killers. They meet Nelson Mandela two days later.

List of Suspects Given to Police

- The day after the murder, a letter giving the names of the suspects is left in a telephone box. Police surveillance begins on their homes four days later.

23rd Apr. 1993

23 April 1993 - Suspects identified:





7 May-23 June 1993

Suspects arrested and two charged

Police arrest brothers Neil and Jamie Acourt, David Norris, Gary Dobson and Luke Knight, and search their homes.

Neil Acourt and Luke Knight are identified by Duwayne Brooks at ID parades as part of the gang responsible and the pair are charged with murder.

They deny the charges.

Charges dropped

The CPS drops the prosecution as it says the ID evidence from Duwayne Brooks is unreliable.

Numerous stages, then a Police Apology

The Lawrence family call on the Met Police Commissioner Sir Paul Condon to resign. He apologises to them when he appears in October, admitting there had been failures.



29 July 1993

Societal Reaction

- There was shock throughout the nation following the breaking news of Stephen Lawrences Unprovoked murder
- Many activists stepped forward, Including Nelson Mandela to support the family
- Doreen Lawrence (Baroness Lawrence of Clarendon) Campaigned for reforms within the police service and founded the Stephen Lawrence Charitable Trust.
- Advocating for change within the system
- An inquiry was initiated to investigate corruption within the Metropolitan police force.

The MacPherson Report: The Stephen Lawrence Inquiry 1999

- [The Stephen Lawrence Inquiry: The MacPherson Report](#)
- Resulted in 70 recommendations designed to show 'ZERO TOLERANCE'
- concluded that the investigation into the killing had been "marred by a combination of professional incompetence, institutional racism and a failure of leadership". Specific officers in the Metropolitan police were named and the entire force was criticised.
- Some 67 of the report's recommendations led to specific changes in practice or the law within two years of its publication.
- They included the introduction of detailed targets for the recruitment, retention and promotion of black and Asian officers, as well as the creation of the Independent Police Complaints Commission with the power to appoint its own investigators.
- The abolition of the "double jeopardy rule"
 - which stated that people could not be tried for the same crime twice – eventually led to the 2012 conviction of Gary Dobson and David Norris for Lawrence's murder.

Discussion

- Is the work of the Lawrence Family considered Advocacy here?
 - If yes, then what form of advocacy does this take?
 - If no, then what is it?

George Floyd



25th May 2020

George Floyd is arrested shortly after 8pm after allegedly using a fake \$20 bill at a shop

Video footage emerges on social media shows a police officer pinning Floyd to the ground with his knee on the back of Floyd's neck

He later dies in hospital

27th May 2020

Demonstrators in other cities including Los Angeles and Memphis start to march in outrage over the death of Floyd.

Many protests turned violent

26th May 2020

Demonstrators gather at the police precinct and the site of the incident to protest against the police

The responding officers were fired as protests began



3rd June 2020

Civil Rights charged was filed against the police
An investigation is launched into the Minneapolis Police Department
Focussing on the 'policies, procedures and practices over the past 10 years'.



3rd March 2020

The U.S. House of representatives passes the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act banning no-knock warrants, mandate use-of-force data collection, prohibit racial and religious profiling and redirect funding to community policing programs



June 8th 2020

Democrats introduce a policing reform bill
The responding officers were fired as protests began

Societal Reaction

- Protests and demonstrations swept across America
- Violence within communities from arson to shop lifting led to further arrests
- Police had to use special measures to fight back, including rubber bullets
- Social Media was utilised to influence the world

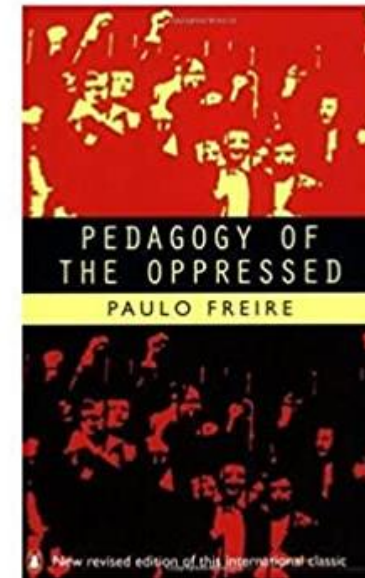
Black Lives Matter

- Identified as being:
- 'a decentralized political and social movement'
- 'protesting against police brutality'
- 'racially motivated violence against black people'
- Initial questions:
 - Shouldn't all lives matter?
 - Why black lives only?
 - What about 'others' considered to be at risk?



Black Lives Matter – Oppression

- Freire argues that the ignorance and lethargy of the poor are the direct result of the whole economic, social and political domination.
- The book suggests that in some countries the oppressors use the system to maintain a "culture of silence".
- Unless we have direct experience, do we have the qualification to comment?



Discussion

- Is the work of BLM considered advocacy here?
 - If yes, then what form of advocacy does this take?
 - If no, then what is it?

Are there wider links?

- Is there such a thing as 'systemic racism' or 'institutional racism' ?
- What Legislation is meant to act against such discriminatory practices and behaviour?
- Are there similarities to any other 'cases'
 - Abuse of power, trust, respect, dignity?
- As a result of 'landmark cases' has anything changed
 - Stephen Lawrence-MacPherson Report
 - [20 years after Macpherson - what has changed?](#)
- Victoria Climbié – Laming Report
 - [The Victoria Climbié Inquiry: Lord Laming](#)

A Theoretical Perspective

Behaviourism

- A systemic approach to understanding the behaviour of humans
- Focussing on the idea that all behaviours are determined entirely by external stimuli in the environment.
- This means that every choice that is made, every action that is taken, by any given person, is because of how they have been conditioned to respond to environmental stimuli

(Imphonopi, Onifade, & Urim, 2013)

The Influence of Social Media

- The external Stimuli that existed during the timescales of both Stephen Lawrence and George Floyd were opposing.
- Stephen Lawrence died at a time where social media did not influence,
 - what we knew was provided by the Newspapers and the Television
- George Floyd's arrest was circulated on social media within minutes
 - Creating instant media influences
- Social media has created an online platform for individuals to voice their opinions to a greater audience
 - Providing momentum and drive to ensure that everyone has an opinion.
 - This can lead to media bias

(Imphonopi, Onifade, & Urim, 2013)

Conflict Theory: Karl Marx

- Conflict theory, developed by Karl Marx, is a theory that society is in a state of perpetual conflict because of competition for limited resources.
- Holds that social order is maintained by domination and power, rather than consensus and conformity.
- Conflict theory states that those with wealth and power try to hold on to it by any means possible, chiefly by suppressing the poor and powerless.
- A basic premiss of conflict theory is that individuals and groups within society will work to try to maximise their own wealth and power.

(Paige & Frederick, 2014)

Conflict Theory: George Floyd

Conflict theory has sought to explain a wide range of social phenomena, including wars, revolutions, poverty, discrimination and domestic violence.

Conflict theory can be seen as a framework that supports the George Floyd movement by highlighting the underlying power imbalances, systemic inequalities, and social injustices that have fuelled the movement's goals.

(Paige & Frederick, 2014)

Structural Inequality

- Conflict theory emphasizes the existence of structural inequalities in society, particularly in relation to race, class, and power.
- It argues that these inequalities are built into the social structure and serve to benefit those in positions of power.
- The George Floyd movement seeks to address racial inequalities in policing and the criminal justice system, which conflict theory identifies as a manifestation of systemic racism.

(Paige & Frederick, 2014)

Power Dynamics

- Conflict theory analyses how power is distributed and maintained within a society.
- In the context of the George Floyd movement, it highlights the power imbalance between law enforcement and marginalized communities, particularly Black Americans.
- This power dynamic often results in police brutality and the disproportionate targeting of Black individuals.

(Paige & Frederick, 2014)

Social Change

- Conflict theory posits that social change occurs when there is a conflict between different groups with competing interests.
- The George Floyd movement represents a challenge to the status quo by demanding reforms in policing and advocating for racial justice.
- It exemplifies how social movements can emerge as a response to perceived injustices and power imbalances.

(Paige & Frederick, 2014)

Class and Race

- Conflict theory underscores the interplay between social class and race in perpetuating inequalities.
- The movements recognition of intersectionality of race and socio-economic factors align with Conflict theory's perspective on how multiple forms of oppression can reinforce each other.
- Discuss this theory and how you feel that it best describes racial inequality

(Paige & Frederick, 2014)



Intersectionality

Intersectionality

- Intersectionality is a concept that was developed in the field of critical theory and feminist studies to describe how various forms of social inequality and oppression can intersect and overlap, creating unique experiences of discrimination and disadvantage for individuals who belong to multiple marginalized groups.
- It was originally coined by Kimberlé Crenshaw, a legal scholar, in the late 1980s.
- At its core, intersectionality recognizes that people's identities and social positions are not defined by a single characteristic, such as gender, race, class, or sexual orientation, but rather by a combination of these factors.
- These intersecting identities can lead to complex and layered experiences of privilege and discrimination.

(Faham, Davis & Ernst, 2019)

Intersectionality

- For example, a Black woman may face a different set of challenges and discrimination than a white woman or a Black man.
- Her experiences are shaped by the intersection of race and gender, and she may encounter unique forms of bias and obstacles that arise from both her racial and gender identities.
- Intersectionality is a framework that helps us understand how social systems and structures of power can compound or amplify discrimination, and it highlights the importance of considering these intersections when addressing issues related to social justice, equality, and equity.
- It encourages a more comprehensive and inclusive approach to advocacy and policy-making by recognizing the complexity of individuals' lived experiences.

(Faham, Davis & Ernst, 2019)

Racial Inequality Legislation

The Equality Act 2010

- The Equality Act is a comprehensive piece of legislation that prohibits discrimination on several grounds, including race and ethnicity.
- It covers various areas of life, including employment, education, housing, and the provision of goods and services.
- The Act also requires public authorities to consider the Impact of their policies on racial equality.

(acas, 2023)

The Equality Act 2010

- The Race Relations Act 1976 was the predecessor to the Equality Act 2010 and played a significant role in combating racial discrimination. The Act was later incorporated into the Equality Act.
- The Equality Act 2010 introduced the Public Sector Equality Duty, which requires public authorities to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations across all protected characteristics, including race.
- Positive Action:
 - The Equality Act 2010 allows for positive action in certain circumstances to address racial disparities. For example, employers may take action to address underrepresentation of certain racial groups in their workforce.

(acas, 2023)

Racial Equality Further Policies

- Stop and Search
 - The use of stop and search powers by the police has been a subject of concern regarding racial profiling and discrimination.
 - Various regulations and guidelines aim to ensure that stop and search is carried out fairly and without racial bias.
- Racial Equality in Education
 - There are policies and initiatives to promote racial equality in education, including measures to address the achievement gap among students from different racial backgrounds.
- Reporting and Monitoring
 - Public bodies, such as government departments and local authorities, are often required to report on their efforts to promote racial equality and may conduct monitoring to assess the impact of policies on different racial groups.

(acas, 2023)

Racial Equality Further Policies

- Race Disparity Audit
 - The UK government has conducted a Race Disparity Audit to examine racial disparities in various areas, including education, employment, and criminal justice, with the aim of addressing disparities and promoting equality.
- Hate Crime Legislation
 - Laws exist to address hate crimes, including racially motivated offenses, with enhanced penalties for such crimes.

(acas, 2023)

TASK

- Consider the Equality Act 2010,
 - Write a short paragraph outlining the implications of racism in the UK.

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