

A Note On Whiteness

Often, in conversations about race, systemic racism, and white supremacy, white people express confusion or other emotions implying cognitive dissonance around how the system of white supremacy impacts them. In other words, white people fail to understand what exactly is at stake if they don't dismantle this system. The system benefits them, so like other privileged groups (men, heterosexual people, able-bodied people), white people would prefer to remain ignorant to the ways the system is actually failing them. The perceived benefits of white supremacy, whether acknowledged or unacknowledged, result in a collective and individual loss of humanity for white people.

When a person or group of people is allowed to feel valuable and worthy based on a societally constructed system of oppression, we are actually taking away each person's humanity. White supremacy takes away each white person's individual value, culture, connection to place and people by reinforcing that a person is valuable simply because of a false construction of whiteness. White people in what is currently known as the United States are suffering a great loss in their participation in white supremacy. We are being cut off from our history, we are being cut off from ourselves. In moving towards anti-racist change, white people must find new modes of being and seeing.