Theories of race, ethnicity and racism in UK educational contexts

Date of event: 3rd November 2015

Venue: Room ED 2.02, Cass School of Education and Communities, Stratford Campus, University of East London

Keynote Speakers: Professor Gargi Bhattacharyya and Professor Floya Anthias

Many different theories of race and racism have been employed in the UK educational context to enhance understanding of the role of race and ethnicity in educational experiences, policies, identities, achievements, and the overt and covert ways in which race discrimination operates, as well as how such discrimination can be countered and eradicated. Scholars, practitioners and activists have employed, drawn upon, adapted and combined critical race theory, postcolonial theories, critical whiteness studies, Marxism, feminism, theories of ethnic, cultural and social capital, poststructural theories of race, theories of social justice, theories of nationalisms, Afrocentrism, racialization, post-racial theories, theories of hegemony, theories of institutional racism, anti-racist and intercultural theories, intersectionality and others.

This wealth of work aims both to eradicate racism and race or ethnicity as a determinant of educational experience, as well as foreground race in the study of education where it is frequently silenced. Despite this, race still matters and racism is still present in education in the UK, and the politics of austerity have exacerbated racial inequalities, whilst somewhat paradoxically, education policies continue to be deracialised.

This one-day conference asks where are we now with theories of race, ethnicity and racism in education? What theories can help us understand the current context in education in the UK? How can we understand race, ethnicity and racism in educational policies, institutions, structures, assumptions and experiences? Are there theories, which are more useful in the UK context? Can theories be adapted from, or to, other cultural contexts, such as the US, Europe or Australia? Which theories are most useful to help us move towards the eradication of racism and a racially just society?

Price: BERA members £10.00 and Non-BERA members £20.00

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