

Moving On From Racism Studies

I would like to officially announce that I am moving on from my research and writings in the area of what I call racism studies and what other sociologists are content to call race and ethnic relations or “race” studies.

I came relatively late to the area so I was not properly socialized into the discipline’s racially accommodative language and numerous racism evasive tactics. That, and the fact that I had tenure by that time and avoided professional meetings like the plague, allowed me to study racism directly, explicitly, and more honestly than is usually the case for professionalized sociology.

In *Conceptualizing Racism: Breaking the Chains of Racially Accommodative Language* I offer my insights into what is wrong in the discipline when it comes to the direct, explicit, and honest studies of racial oppression. That book has been ignored within the profession and things remain as normal; with many of the leading scholars continuing to do things like define racism only as ideology, refusing to use the words systemic racism, referring to themselves as minorities and race scholars, pretending that during this Trump era of American race relations that we now inhabit a world of highly evolved metaracism that somehow exists without racially bigoted hands at the throttle, treating race as if has agency and somehow does things independent of human agency, using the passive voice in ways that make it seem that things somehow just happen, and breathing life into the race concept through theories that reify it as somehow harmless and ever shifting meanings rather than the dangerous and erroneous ideology it actually is. And I can go on and on, and in fact do, in *Conceptualizing Racism*.

At this point I have little respect for most of what is happening in the area and most of the scholars within it (If it makes you feel better, please consider yourself to be an exception 😊), realize that I am powerless to change things, and find myself becoming increasingly angry and bitter.

Those are all signs that it is time to move on. So, with the publication in a few weeks or so of my *Killing African Americans* book I am done. I will continue to teach courses like White Racism, African Americans and Social Protest, and Killing African Americans and to speak out about racism; but I am moving on with my research and writings to a place that is more conducive to where I need to be spiritually at this stage in my life.

It’s been a good run and I hope I have left a model in *Welfare Racism*, the *Urban Racial State*, *Conceptualizing Racism*, and *Killing African Americans*, and my other writings of how racism studies can be done for those who might be interested. But in any case, I am proud of my work, as imperfect as it is, and I sleep very well at night.