

Fifty Ways to Leave... Your Racism

Nimisha Patel & Harshad Keval

SUMMARY: This article considers how academia and the psy-professions have engaged in race-making, by taking racism off the agenda and producing the mirage of addressing race and Whiteness, whilst proficiently performing and reinforcing racism.

KEY WORDS: racism, othering, post-racialism, Whiteness, Eurocentrism

Racism does not stay still; it changes shape, size, contours, purpose, function... people's attitudes don't mean a damn to me, but it matters to me if I can't send my child to the school I want... if I can't get the job for which I am qualified... the acting out of prejudice is discrimination and when it becomes institutionalised in the power structure of this society, then we are dealing not with attitudes, but with power. (Sivanandan, 1990: 65)

The above is a quote from a speech given in 1983 by the late Ambalavener Sivanandan, then director of the Institute of Race Relations, UK. The speech was during a period of constant racialised turmoil, discrimination and violence, and starkly renders our multi-racial, multi-ethnic, culturally syncretic UK landscape in powerful racially rendered hues. Thirty-five years after this speech, we are seeing a newly revived racialised antagonism which has been fuelled by both political machinations of old, as well as by recent national, European and global economic contexts. Our contemporary landscape is marred by increased racial violence,

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