

SSPARC

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Presentation

Renegotiation identity: Unlocking a narrow discourse of diversity

Speaker

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Abstract

In this presentation Sindi Gordon and Yaa Asare bring together their research findings to contemplate how racial identity is played out in contemporary society.

Sindi explores the lack of representation of heterogeneity and diversity in contemporary Britain and why it matters. She suggests the necessity for new questions and new understandings in order to unlock some of the narrow terms of the discourses in which we are inscribed. She asks 'are we genuinely creating a society to recognise and negotiate difference and multiplicity rather than conforming to fixed hegemonic ideals?'

Yaa draws on her teaching and training practice to ask questions about how the discourse of multiculturalism plays out in (representations of) an antagonistic positioning of the white working class in relation to race equality. Hewitt is used to help explore these perceived tensions between class and race equality.

The theories of Gilroy and Hall help open up discussions of how identity positions unfold, how difference is perceived and the increasing subtle play of the associated power dynamics.

Sindi and Yaa have been involved in creating a film resource for schools to support children explore their own identities. One of these aspects of identity featured in the film is the experience and expression of 'black' identity. The presentation will explore this from both a theoretical and a lived perspective. How do we conceive of ourselves and others and to what extent can identity politics help us move towards a politics of social justice?