

DID YOU JUST SAY THAT? RECOGNIZING AND INTERUPPTING MICROAGGRESSION

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IGOALS

- Recognizing Microaggressions
- Interrupting Microaggressions

1 RECOGNIZING MICROAGGRESSIONS

WHAT IS A MICROAGGRESSION?

• The everyday verbal, nonverbal, and environmental slights, snubs, or insults, whether intentional or unintentional, that communicate hostile, derogatory, or negative messages to target persons based solely upon their marginalized group membership. (*Diversity in the Classroom*, UCLA Diversity and Faculty Development, 2014).

Types of Microaggressions

Microassault: Explicit derogations and purposeful discriminatory actions (essentially explicit racism or discrimination).

Microinsult: Behavioral or verbal remarks that convey rudeness, insensitivity, and demean a person's heritage or identity. Often subtle snubs outside the level of awareness of the perpetrator, microinsults clearly convey a hidden insulting message to the recipient.

<u>Microinvalidation</u>: Verbal comments or behaviors that exclude, negate, or nullify the psychological thoughts, feelings, or experiential reality of a person; they are likely unintentional.

INTERNAL DILEMMA

- Did I interpret that correctly?
- Did she say what I think she said?
- What did he mean by that?
- Should I say something?
- Saying something may make it worse
- They'll probably think I'm overreacting
- Speaking up is going to hurt more than it helps

Psychological Impact

- Anxiety
- Depression
- Sleep Difficulties
- Diminished Confidence
- Helplessness
- Loss of Drive
- Intrusive Cognitions
- Diminished Cognition



Alien in Own Land



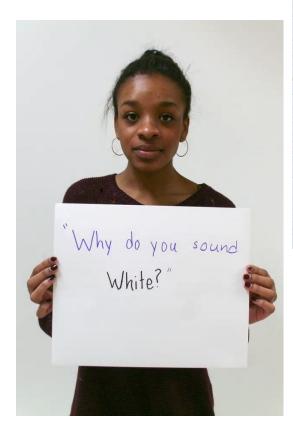


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Ascription of Intelligence





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Color Blindness

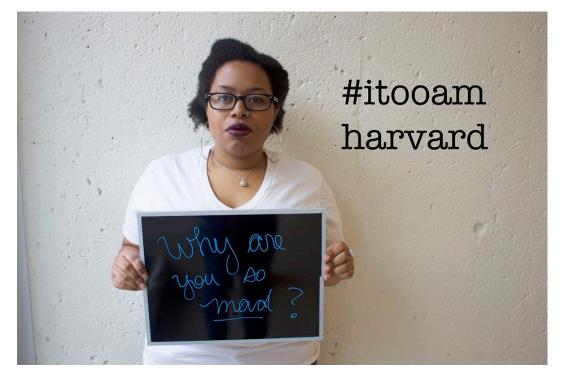


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Denigrating
Cultural Values/
Communication
Styles



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Sexual Orientation Microaggressions





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Gender Identity Microaggressions



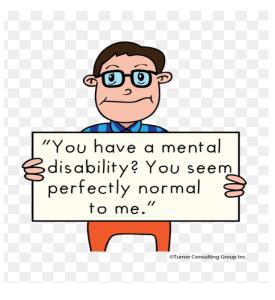






Disability Microaggressions





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Disabilities

- Visible Disability: Noticeable by looking at a person.
- Non-visible Disability: A physical, mental or neurological condition that is not visible from the outside, yet can limit or challenge a person's movements, senses or activities.

MICROAGGRESSION THEMES

- Denial of Disability Experience
- Denial of Personal Identity
- Denial of Privacy
- Helplessness
- Secondary Gain

2 INTERRUPTING MICROAGGRESSIONS

Range of Responses

- Ignore it
- Use Humor
- Confront the Person

When You're the Target

- Consider the context
- Take care of yourself

When You're the Upstander

- Be an Ally
- Speak for Yourself

When You're the Microaggressor

- Try Not to be Defensive
- Acknowledge, Apologize and Reflect

Potential Responses

- "Ouch"
- Quizzical Look
- Ask for clarification: "What do you mean?"
- "Don't you mean ____?"
- "Could you repeat that?"
- "That's not my experience/the experience of many people"

Potential Responses



THANKS!

ANY QUESTIONS?