Critical Race Theory
AN INTRODUCTION
CRT Origins

• Evolved in the 1970s by several legal scholars, but highly influenced by Derrick Bell Jr.
• Emerged from the study of law
• CRT evolved as a response to stalling civil right gains of the 1960s and an increasing repeal of civil right advances
• Informed by 6 main tenets that posit race is a social construct that has resulted in social and legal biases against people of color (e.g. redlining)
Usage of CRT

• CRT is a lens used to analyze policies and systems that lead to inequitable outcomes for people of Color.
• CRT is often taught in graduate-level courses, predominately within legal studies and the social sciences.
• CRT does not accuse people of wrongdoing, rather it interrogates and critiques systems that perpetuate inequalities on the basis of race.
1. Permanence of Racism

• Racism is a commonplace experience for Black individuals and Black communities in the U.S.
• Racism is difficult to address because it is not widely acknowledged.
• Color-blind approaches or impartiality only address the most obvious forms of racism.
• Racism is structural, systemic, and built into the social fabric of U.S. society.
2. Interest Convergence

• Advances in race relations have primarily occurred, not from altruistic reasons, but because all parties gain something from promoting diversity and equity.
3. Race is a Social Construction

• Race is not based on biological or genetic difference. Race is a socially constructed concept.
• Demonstrates that science refutes the idea of biological social differences (e.g., Human Genome Project).
4. Whiteness as Property

• Different minority groups are "racialized" differently at different times to meet social and economic needs.
• Progress in race relations will be followed by atavism.
5. Intersectionality

• All people have multiple identities that inform their reality and lived experiences.
6. Counter Storytelling

• People of Color have different experiences that are informed by race and counter stories can convey those experiences.

• Counter storytelling can be used as a method for highlighting racial discrimination and injustice.
References & Additional Resources


Questions?