

# Black and Native American Solidarity in the Social Sciences: Together, we can Heal by Tapping into our Complex Racialized Identities

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## Abstract

Our co-authored piece contrasts our nuanced and convergent lived experiences as racialized people with the solidarity of Black and Indigenous people. Our racialized identities and stories, which Lauren and I (Nate) co-examine, may complicate Black-and-Indigenous-led movements. We say "racialized" to recognize racial oppressors' race craft to enslave Black and Native individuals. Lauren, a Native teacher extremist, and I, a Black researcher lobbyist, both with white maternal heredity, associated in the wake of storying about our excursions to, though, and past the educating calling. We are not free until we are all free, according to Black and Indigenous educators. By providing Black and Indigenous knowledge on complex ancestry within the U.S. racialization project, our knowledge contributions further complicate freedom-for-all. The conversational data came from a group project with educators and activists in whom Lauren and I talked a lot about how our paths to our justice orientation were similar and different. Numerous lessons about Black and Indigenous solidarity emerged from our conversations.

**Keywords:** Research impact • Co-learnings • Native individuals

## Introduction

Among these co-learnings were: building fortitude through winding around our one of kind stories, broadening nuanced understandings of racialized encounters, and co-guideline in cultural spaces not made for us. We conclude with recommendations for maintaining social science solidarity. In conversation with our Black and Indigenous ancestors, we asked ourselves how our lived experiences and stories as racialized people might complicate Black and Indigenous-led social science activities. Lauren and I respond to our question by going back to the numerous conversations, tales, and informal discussions we had while we were participating in a Black and Indigenous educator activist collective and co-presenting at the All-In titled Building Solidarity at the Intersections of Black and Indigenous Storying: Santa Cruz, California, Co-Creating Knowledge for Justice Conference [1]. We discovered co-learnings in extending nuanced understandings of racialized experiences, co-regulatory healing in knowledge co-creation spaces, and building solidarity through weaving our individual stories.

## Literature Review

Peer review plays a crucial role in evaluating scientific activity in all disciplines, including the humanities and social sciences. The expertise and judgment of peers in the respective fields are essential for assessing the quality, rigor, and originality of research. However, it is important to acknowledge that peer review has its limitations, including biases, subjectivity, and potential

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gatekeeping. Striving for diverse and inclusive reviewer panels and employing transparent review processes can help mitigate these challenges. To complement traditional metrics offer a valuable tool for assessing the societal impact and engagement of research in the humanities and social sciences. Altimetry's capture online attention, such as mentions on social media, news outlets, policy documents, and public forums [2,3]. Additionally, qualitative indicators, such as expert evaluations, assessments of public engagement, and the influence of research on policy and public discourse, can provide valuable insights into the broader impact of research [4].

## Discussion

The history of both Black and Native American communities in the United States has been marred by systemic oppression, discrimination, and marginalization. These communities have faced the brunt of colonialism, slavery, forced displacement, and ongoing racial injustice. However, despite their distinct histories, Black and Native American communities have found common ground in their struggles against oppression [5]. This article explores the concept of Black and Native American solidarity in the social sciences, highlighting the importance of collaborative efforts, shared experiences, and mutual support in promoting social justice and equality [6].

## Conclusion

Black and Native American solidarity in the social sciences signifies a powerful alliance against shared struggles of oppression, discrimination, and marginalization. By acknowledging their common experiences and working together, these communities can challenge systemic injustices, dismantle oppressive structures, and promote social justice. It is essential for scholars, researchers, and activists to continue fostering dialogue, collaboration, and mutual support to create a more inclusive and equitable society for all. Black and Native American solidarity in the social sciences has the potential to create transformative change. By amplifying each other's voices, challenging oppressive systems, and advocating for policy reforms, these communities can address intersecting forms of racism and inequality. Furthermore, the inclusion of diverse perspectives in research and academia strengthens the knowledge base and contributes to more comprehensive and nuanced social analysis.

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## Conflict of Interest

None.

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