

Seeing Microaggressions: Online Examples

Microaggressions: everyday verbal, nonverbal, and environmental slights, snubs, or insults, whether intentional or unintentional, which communicate hostile, derogatory, or negative messages to target persons based solely upon their marginalized group membership.

- Derald Wing Sue, Ph.D.

Several online projects illustrate the voices of those impacted by microaggressions. The student projects noted here are those of college students; K-12 school leaders will want to review and choose content for use with their own staff.

The Microaggressions Project

<http://www.microaggressions.com>

“This blog seeks to provide a visual representation of the everyday of ‘microaggressions.’ Each event, observation and experience posted is not necessarily particularly striking in and of themselves. Often, they are never meant to hurt - acts done with little conscious awareness of their meanings and effects. Instead, their slow accumulation during a childhood and over a lifetime is in part what defines a marginalized experience, making explanation and communication with someone who does not share this identity particularly difficult.’

this project is a response to “it’s not a big deal” - “it” is a big deal. “it” is in the everyday. “it” is shoved in your face when you are least expecting it. “it” happens when you expect it the most. “it” is a reminder of your difference. “it” enforces difference. “it” can be painful. “it” can be laughed off. “it” can slide unnoticed by either the speaker, listener or both. “it” can silence people. “it” reminds us of the ways in which we and people like us continue to be excluded and oppressed. “it” matters because these relate to a bigger “it”: a society where social difference has systematic consequences for the “others.”

but “it” can create or force moments of dialogue.

The Race Card Project

<http://theracecardproject.com/>

Initiated by journalist Michele Norris in 2010, this site continues to collect American’s six-word perspectives on race. The Six Word stories are also featured regularly in reports by Michele Norris on NPR’s Morning Edition. Although not collected for this purpose, many of the posts illustrate microaggressions. Seattle and Spokane Falls Community Colleges are featured location collections on the site.

Visual Messaging from students (and sometimes faculty):

- <http://brown.edu/academics/race-ethnicity/events-programs/racial-microaggressions-microaffirmations> (Brown University)
- <http://www.buzzfeed.com/hnigatu/racial-microaggressions-you-hear-on-a-daily-basis#.nezYn3J2R> (Fordham)
- <http://itooamharvard.tumblr.com/> (Harvard)