
Burning our Fingers: An Intersectional Grapple with The Steel Cage of Racism

Dr. Christopher Castillo
he/him/his
cecastil@uic.edu

<https://tinyurl.com/cecastil1>



Positionality

- First Generation
- Mexican-American
- Cisgender Man

Image: Brown-skinned man in black shirt holding and eyeing a lego set in their right hand.



Land Acknowledgment

The University of Illinois at Chicago recognizes that it resides on the traditional Territories of the Three Fire Peoples - the Ojibwe, Odawa and Potawatomi. While a land acknowledgement is not enough, it is an important social justice and decolonial practice that promotes indigenous visibility and a reminder that we are on settled indigenous land.

Image: White-brick building, with rows of windows and adorned with red banners and white text that read "UIC."



Today!

Overview
of
Research

Scholarly
Discussion

The
Aftermath

Looking
for MOR



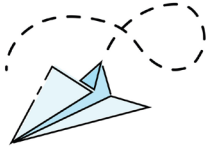
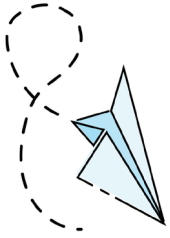
Overview of Research: The Incident

“You’re Not Running This Meeting.”

- ~10 Predominantly white graduate students
- 1 White cis-woman faculty
- 2 Students of color
 - 1 Mexican American man
 - 1 Asian American woman
- Private space
- Discussing Inoue’s 2019 C’s chair address
- 5 Recorded Discussions

Image: Writing Center classroom space at UW-Madison

Definitions



- **Feelings vs. Emotions** (Bonilla-Silva)

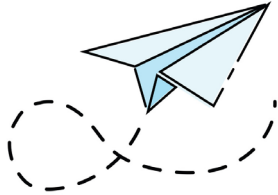
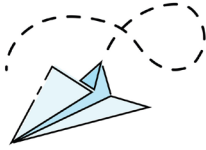
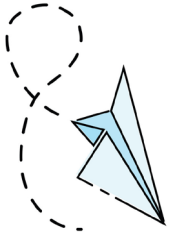


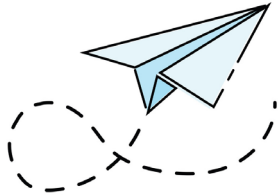
Image: Writing Center classroom space at UW-Madison

Scholarly Discussion

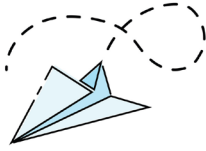
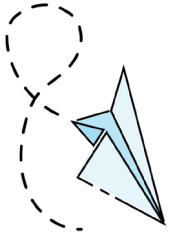


- **Emotional Dimension of WPA Work**

- **Early WPA work focused on emotions** (Murphy; Barnett; and Speirs)
 - **Anger, fear, sadness**
- **Emotional labor** (Holt, Anderson, and Rouzie)
 - **“attention to the emotional aspects of social life”**
- **Rhetoric of Emotions** (Micciche)
 - **Emoting vs. Rhetoric’s of Emotion**
 - **“emotions as a performative that produces effects”**
- **Affective Complaint** (Siccarì)
 - **“revealing power dynamics embedded in our institutional positions and policies”**
 - **“happiness as a form of emotional labor”**



Scholarly Discussion



- **Our Contribution**
 - **Multivalent Encounters**
 - **Resolution**

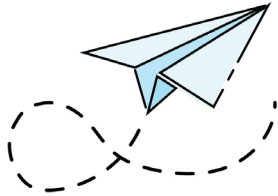
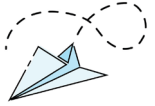
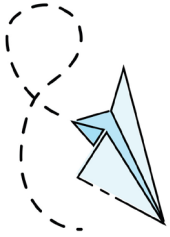


Image: Three paper airplanes with chasing dotted lines

Scholarly Discussion



- **Theoretical Framework: Bonilla-Silva – Racialized Emotions (RE)**
 - **Racialized Social Systems**
 - “a social system organized around practices, mechanisms, cognitions, and behaviors that reproduce racial domination” (2)
 - **RE are central to the production of actor’s subjectivity**
 - “The RE that shape actor’s subjectivity are not individual emotions; they have histories and specific contexts of manifestation” (Bonilla-Silva quoting Denzin 1984, Pg. 4)

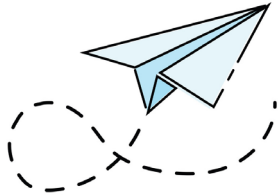


Image: Three paper airplanes with chasing dotted lines



The Lead Up: Their Story

Learning to “Make it”:

- Gendered Expectations
- White Woman Role Models
- Wandering Classrooms

Image: Upset brown-skinned man with folded hands and upset white woman with hand on hip

The Lead Up: Chris's Story

Learning to “Make it”:

- White Expectations
- White Male Professors
- Socratic Methods of Learning

Image: Upset brown-skinned man with folded hands and upset white woman with hand on hip



The Aftermath

Learning to “Make it”:

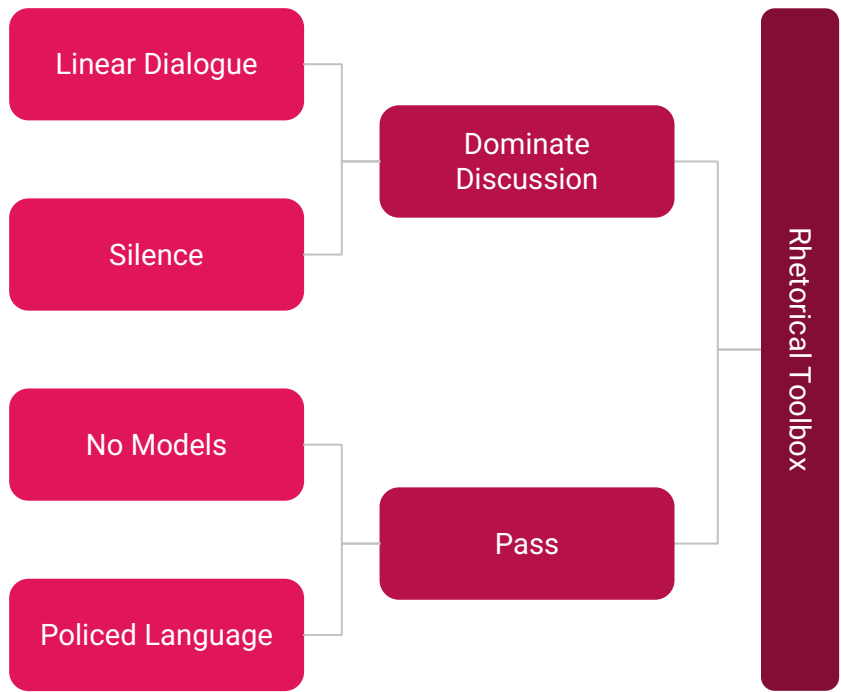
- Chris
 - Dominate and Pass
 - Anxiety
 - Fear
- Their
 - Control and Deference
 - Annoyance
 - Anger



hands and

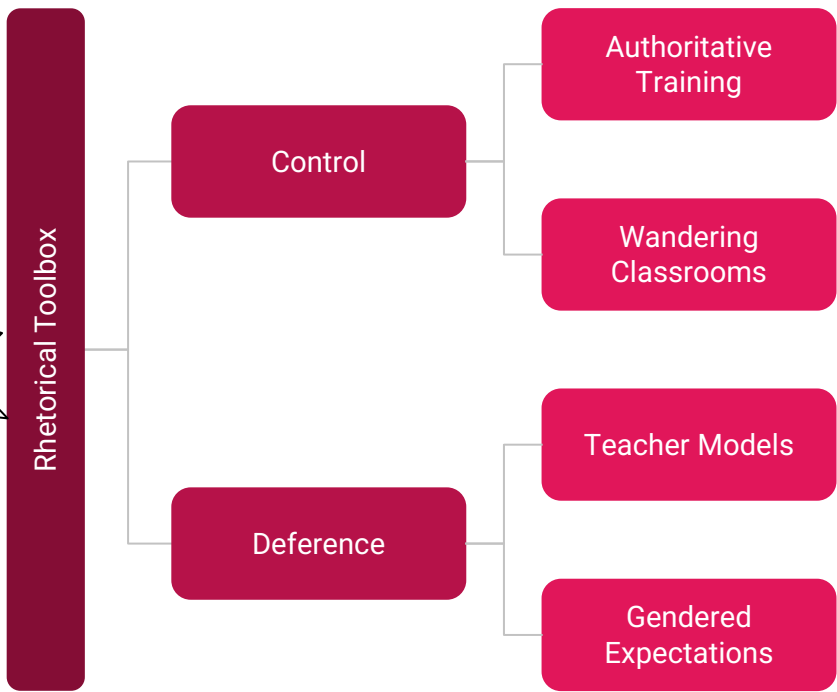
*Image: Upset brown-skinned man with folded
upset white woman with hand on hip*

Whiteness



Sexism

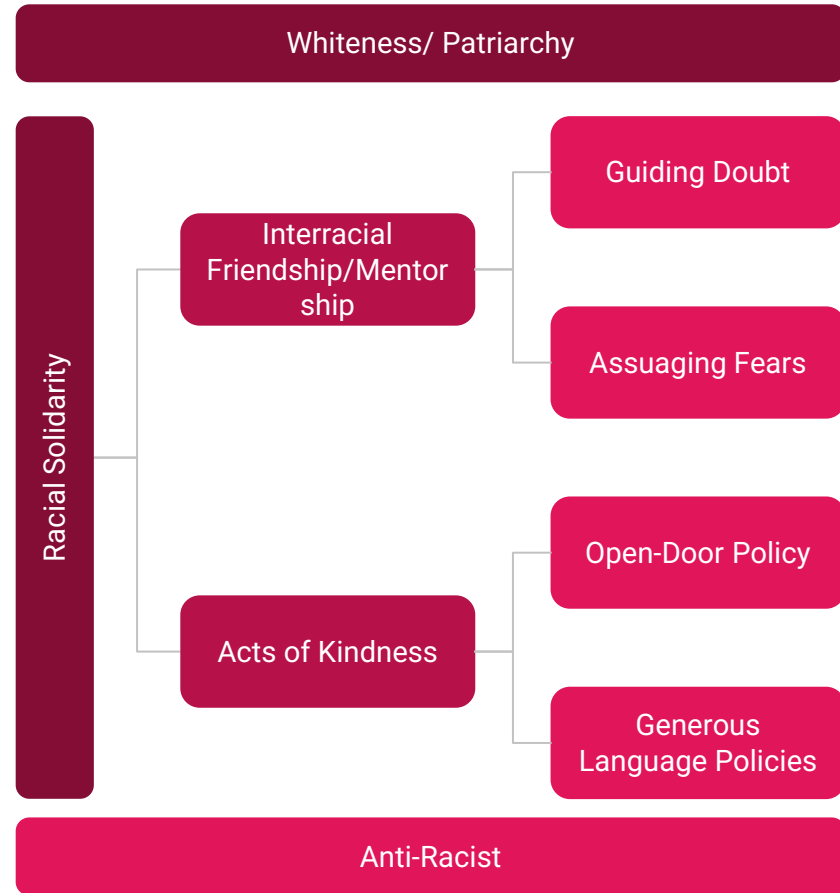
Patriarchy

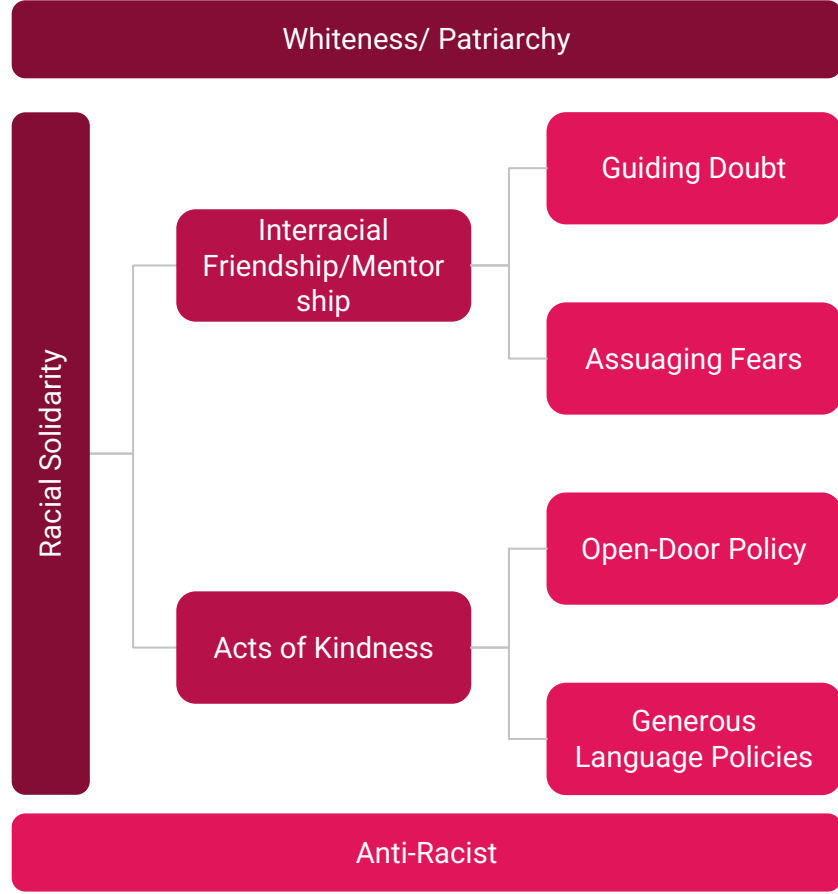
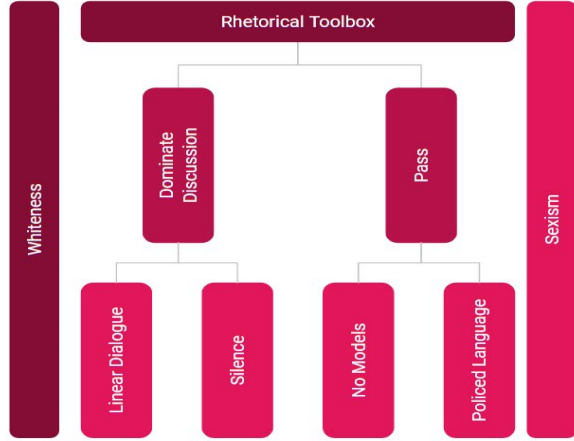
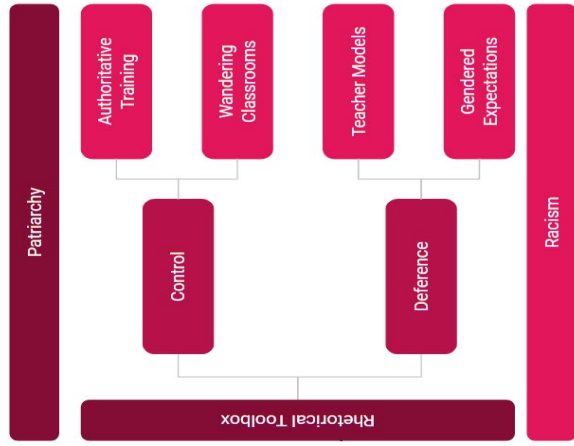


Racism



Moment(s) of Reconciliation





Looking for Moments of Reconciliation

- Engage with RE
- Recognize relationship across context
- Documentation and reflection



Image: Smiling brown-skinned man with folded hands and smiling white woman with hand on hip

Thanks!

- Dr. Christopher Castillo
- UIC-School of Law
- cecastil@uic.edu

Image: Brown-skinned man in black shirt holding and eyeing a lego set in their right hand.



Works Cited

- Barnett, Robert. "The Invisible Couch in the Tutoring of Writing." *Writing Lab Newsletter* 20.4, 1995, pp. 10-12.
- Bonilla-Silva, Eduardo. "Feeling Race: Theorizing the Racial Economy of Emotions." *American Sociological Review*, vol. 84, no. 1, Feb. 2019, pp. 1–25.
- Holt, Mara, Leon Anderson, and Albert Rouzie. *Making Emotion Work Visible in Writing Program Administration. A Way to Move: Rhetorics of Emotion & Composition Studies*. Eds. Dale Jacobs and Laura Micciche. Portsmouth, NH: Boynton/Cook, 2003. 147-60.
- Micciche, Laura R. *Doing Emotion: Rhetoric, Writing, Teaching*. Boynton/Cook Publishers, 2007.
- Murphy, Christina. "Freud in the Writing Center: the Psychoanalytics of Tutoring Well." *Writing Center Journal* 10.1 1989, 13-18.
- Speirs, Kristie. "The Easy Conferences are the Toughest: A Reconsideration of Christina Murphy's 'Freud in the Writing Center.'" *Writing Lab Newsletter* vol. 23, no.7, 1999, pp.11-13.
- Sicari, Anna. "Complaint as 'Sticky Data' for the Woman WPA: The Intellectual Work of a WPA's Emotional and Embodied Labor"." *The Journal of the Assembly for Expanded Perspectives on Learning*, vol. 25, no. 1, 2020, pp. 99–117.