





Critical policy analysis and the use of research evidence

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- October 1, 2020
- Critical Race Perspectives on the Use of Research Evidence, William T. Grant Foundation



Researchers have been complicit in limiting what counts as rigor and reliability in knowledge production



The limits of
positivist
research: A
reliance on
assumptions
about the
social world

“...the dominant orientation toward quantitative social science research in education has eschewed critical theories, maintained a neo-positivist posture toward the data, and assumed privileged access to the “truths” of natural phenomena via the logics of mathematics” (Dixon-Roman, 2016, p. 2).

Policy claims can rest on problematic assumptions about data representation (even when methods are sound)

Paul Krugman ✓ @paulkrugman · Sep 11, 2020

So it's 9/11. Hard to remember now how large the terrorist attack loomed in our national psyche; after all, in death toll Covid-19 is already the equivalent of 60 9/11s. But a few thoughts and recollections 1/

Paul Krugman ✓ @paulkrugman

Overall, Americans took 9/11 pretty calmly. Notably, there wasn't a mass outbreak of anti-Muslim sentiment and violence, which could all too easily have happened. And while GW Bush was a terrible president, to his credit he tried to calm prejudice, not feed it 2/

4:46 AM · Sep 11, 2020

6.4K 20.6K people are Tweeting about this

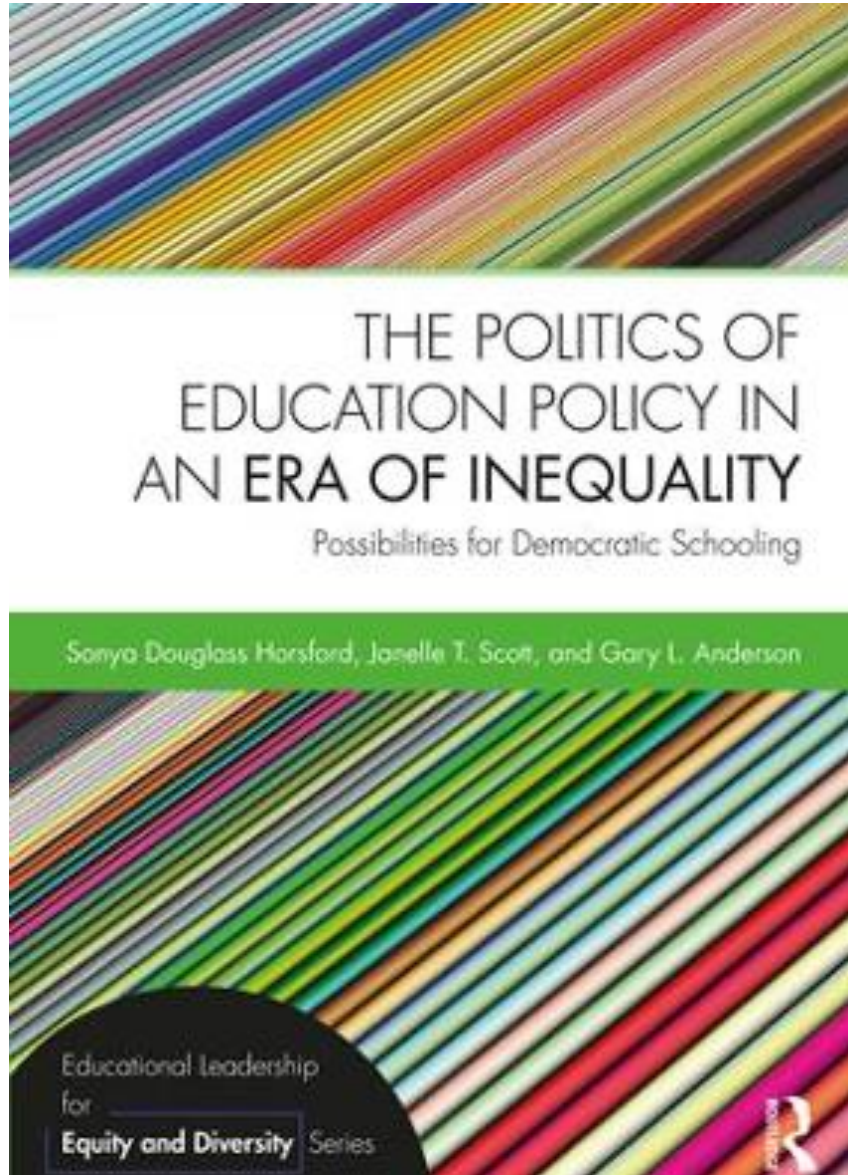
Paul Krugman ✓ @paulkrugman · Sep 13

I'm going to do a delayed update on a tweet from 9/11 that sparked a lot of outrage. Before I start, however, let me give you some data from the FBI's hate crimes database, showing victims of hate crimes by motivation in selected years. ucr.fbi.gov/hate-crime 1/

Year	Anti-black	Sexual orientation	Anti-Islamic
2000	3500	1500	100
2001	3700	1600	500
2002	3100	1500	200

1.5K 1.5K 1.3K

Critical Policy Analysis

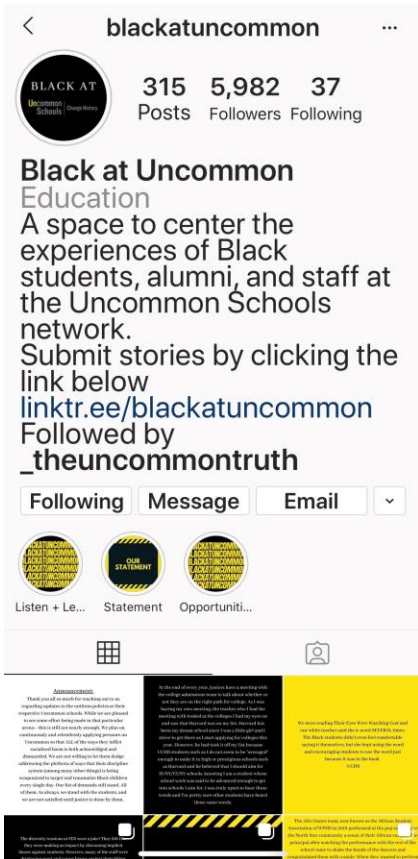


- Focus on politics, history, governance, economics while centering racism
- Examining policy as discourse and political spectacle, formal and informal
- Centering the perspectives of the minoritized, marginalized, and oppressed
- Interrogating the distribution of power and resources
- Holding those in power accountable for policy design and outcomes
- Draws from CRT, Feminist Theories

Big questions about education policies and practices require critical policy analysis

- Is it good for the health and well-being of children? Does it allow them to reach their potential as learners, citizens, humans?
- Is this good for developing and sustaining robust systems that serve and support communities?
- How does it address, acknowledge & disrupt racism, and the specificities of Indigenous & anti-Black racism?
- How does this intervention relate to the history of racism, dispossession, and accumulation of power with regards to minoritized children and communities? What power needs to be shared or redistributed?

Black @: Understanding inequity through the voices of students and teachers



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We are looking for more...
We are looking for more...



Black N Brown at Democracy Prep
@blacknbrownatdp

The compilation of the stories from Democracy Prep Public Schools alumni, parents and present and former staff. Please share your story here: bit.ly/2AOz1CO

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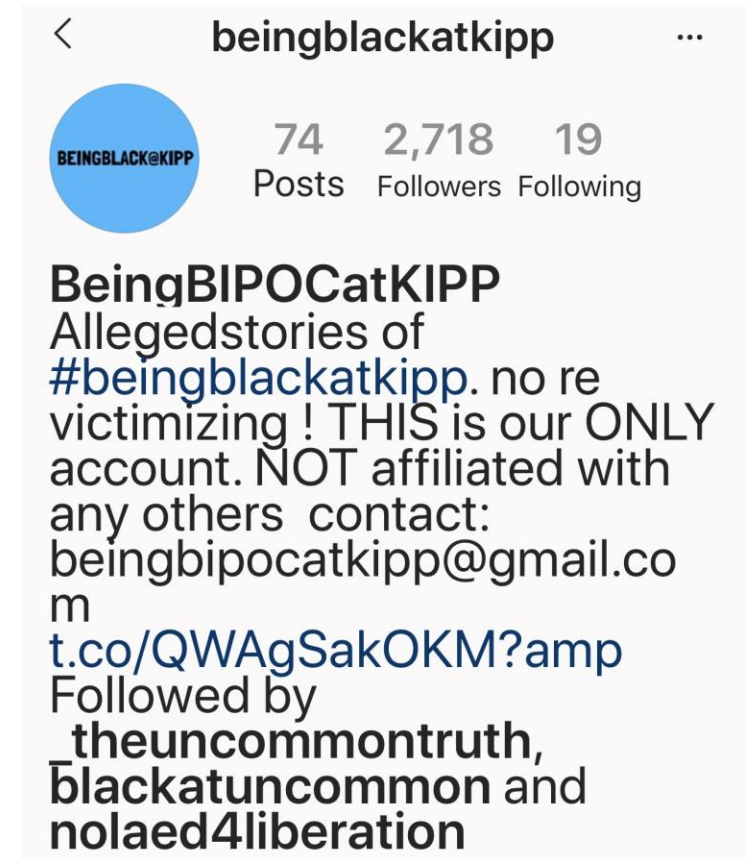
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Black N Brown at D Medium



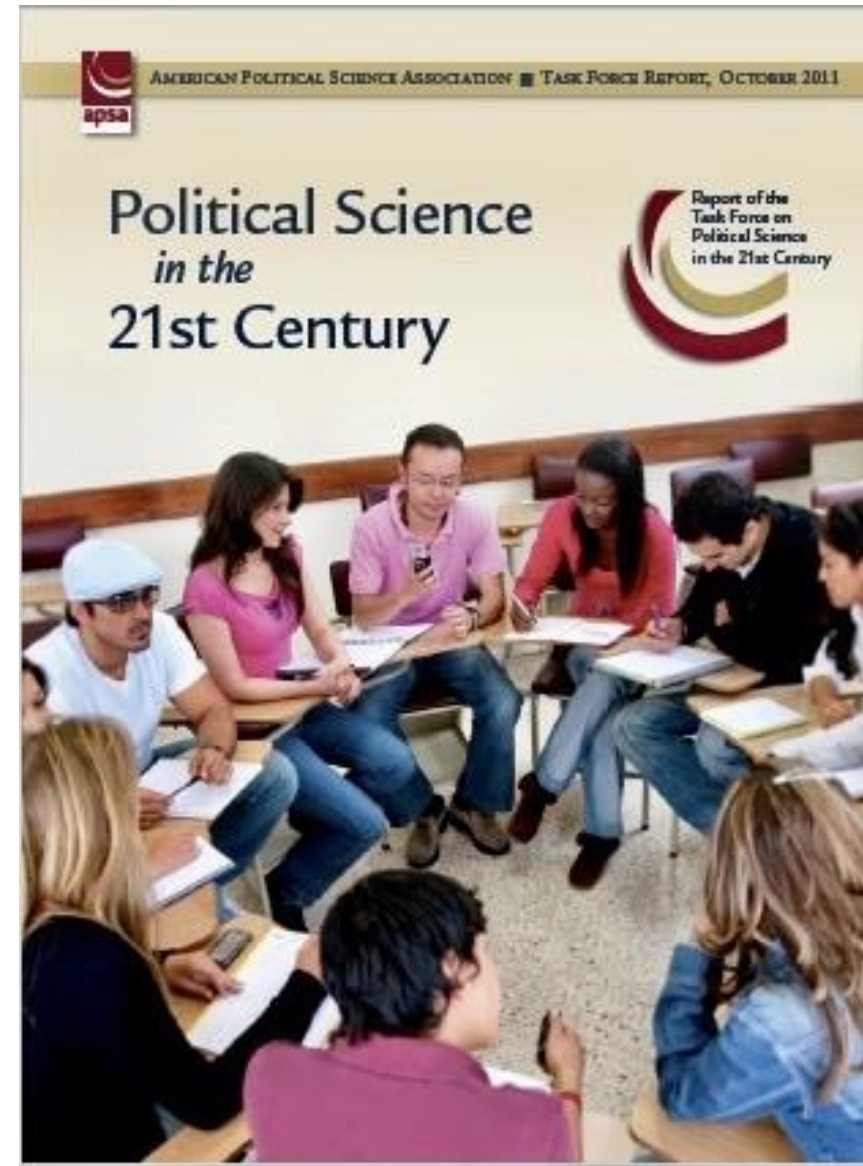
beingblackatkipp

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Examining disciplinarity, APSA 2011

“In his call for a “revolutionary research agenda” for political science, **William Strickland** argues that in the study of democracy in the United States, scholars must ask-and answer- **the questions of what is meant by a democracy that practices slavery, denies civic participation to women, excludes population groups from its territory, and often governs for the benefit of the most wealthy.** He argues that until these issues are explicitly explored, a full sense of what is being studied is not possible. **This is equivalent to studying medicine without dissecting cadavers, chemistry without a laboratory, or biology by solely examining wax plants.”**





How CPA can improve URE

- Multifocal, multimodal, ecological approaches to complex social issues centering the intersection of race and power.
- Think critically about the power of analytic generalization.
- Redirect strategies that would seek to diversify disciplines but not diversify epistemologies, methods, and theories.
- Help to identify what voices, perspectives, experiences are missing from our research before making research use recommendations.
- Invest in CPA-informed studies & translation of those studies for use by policy makers, communities, and practitioners.