

Internal Summary from NNIP Network COVID-19 Call on 6/10/2020

*Please do not share outside of the NNIP Network

Partner Reflections (Durham, Baltimore, and Minneapolis)

Partners shared their organizations' experiences and reframing of work to be more explicitly anti-racist and responsive to community needs.

- There is currently a #ShutdownAcademia strike that is prompting scholars to stop business as usual and reflect on structural racism in the academy.
- DataWorks NC published an anti-racist research blog series (parts [1,2,3](#)), which includes three major ways that research can be racist, 3 ways to be anti-racist, and how data intermediaries can facilitate health research for social justice. They also hosted a [Twitter chat](#) to comment on experiences with research, racism, and anti-racist methods.
- Twitter is a good platform for learning about the racism Black folks experience in academia. The hashtags #BlackInTheIvoryTower #BlackInTheIvory describe these.
- Some examples of programs from CURA in Minneapolis are steps in the right direction:
 - Anti-racism is implicit in the work done, recent work around gentrification and evictions have pointed to structural racism as an underlying cause
 - Run an organizer and leadership training program for activists and youth of color to join boards, etc. in their communities. Teaches them skills to apply for leadership positions and fight for change.
 - Worked with the City to hold neighborhood organizations accountable for being representative of their community members. Doing away with a model where white homeowner are overrepresented.
 - Rethinking the way neighborhoods are funded, review a 20-year history of how funding happened and suggest a more equity-based model to divert funding to communities of color.
 - Also, thinking about the movement now to defund the police and increase access to healthcare, housing, food.
- In Baltimore, BNIA shared 4 key things to consider for your organization in reacting to the current events:
 - Decide if your organization is going to lead with a point of view
 - Make sure it's a sustainable point of view for the long run. We chose to use data to be the voice of neighborhoods. Neighborhoods cannot be "separate but equal" – if we have disparities among neighborhoods, we will have disparities in every other aspect of society (racial disparity, health disparity, education disparity, etc)
 - Synthesize prior research and data analysis to support/justify your point of view
 - Go upstream in the decision-making process within your city so that the data can be useful before inequitable outcomes become evident

What work have you been doing to dismantle structural racism, and moving forward, how can you do more to be explicitly anti-racist?

Guidance on data work/research

- In data work, is there guidance around developing data/mapping around equity? In the past NNIP/Urban has produced data visualizations that focused on equity indicators, but these fall

short. Often, we are good about naming the problems, but need to do more about solutions as part of the data work. Data needs to be accompanied by historic and modern racist policy/practice contexts.

- Going back to that organizational point-of-view (POV), data can be helpful in situations that align with policies that support your POV.
- Flip university – community engagement to be community-university engagement and have community drive it.

Building partnerships

- Some organizations are building relationships with advocacy organizations, where they provide data expertise for those other organizations can take it to the next level. The advocacy organizations have the solutions, but NNIP Partners' data can help further those goals. Other partners are connecting with neighborhood and task forces to build these relationships around data and equity.
- How can we think about supporting a pipeline of young people of color doing research and data work? Some examples include National Science Foundation grants for civic innovation that can create things like civic data trainings and courses. And thinking about how to build in apprenticeship/intern programs (see BNIA's Data Science Corps below)

Moving to be more anti-racist

- There are concerns that in some ways, there are not concrete changes to African American communities based on research. These communities are used for gathering grant dollars and extracting information.
- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) frameworks are lessening the impact of the movement. DEI efforts are gentler and in opposition to anti-racist efforts. DEI frameworks are a reflection of whiteness.
- How can we not only be critical of research work (racial and health equity) but also our own organizations and the racial makeup of our teams? We want to be partnering with community-based organizations, but are we promoting more Black researchers, scholars, students?
- In releasing criminal justice-related materials, how can those products hold police equitable and then also contribute to the work in a way that stays true to our values.
- Folks agree that it is important to have places (like this one) to have these conversations that are hard but necessary. How can we differentiate between conversations for processing and brainstorming and then conversations that are more like working groups?
- Helpful to think about being anti-racist researchers and being active in methodology. How to actually do that research? What tools exist?

How could NNIP be supportive of your efforts? What would you want to see NNIP do collectively as a network?

- What does anti-racist research and practices look like? What is the distinction? What does being an anti-racist mean? What are the examples of disruption? What do those policies look like?
- Sharing resources for anti-racist research and data practices.

Resources

DataWorks NC's anti-racist research blog series:

- <https://dataworks-nc.org/2019/research-and-community-organizing-part-1-3-ways-in-which-research-can-be-racist/>
- <https://dataworks-nc.org/2020/research-and-community-organizing-part-2-3-ways-to-do-antiracist-research/>
- <https://dataworks-nc.org/2020/research-and-community-organizing-part-3-what-is-possible-for-research-that-supports-social-justice/>
- Twitter chat recap: <https://dataworks-nc.org/2020/twitter-chat-recap-anti-racist-research-methods/>

Equity Indicators: <https://bniajfi.org/currentprojects/equity-cip-baltimore/> based on Pittsburgh and St. Louis reports on equity indicators to look at what Baltimore could use

Urban just published a brief on "Principles for Equitable Data Practice" - uses the principles in the Belmont report - justice, respect for persons and community benefit and applies them to the data life cycle.

"[Centering Racial Equity Throughout Data Integration](#)" from Actionable Intelligence for Social Policy

BNIA's NSF Grant for Data Science Corps https://bniajfi.org/currentprojects/data_science_corps/

NNIP's DEI Guidance: <https://www.neighborhoodindicators.org/library/guides/resources-diversity-equity-and-inclusion>

Book on anti-racism for public health research.

<https://secure.apha.org/imis/ItemDetail?iProductCode=978-087553-3032&CATEGORY=BK>