

June 1 2020

Department Statement Against Racism

Dear colleagues,

At the prompting of our outstanding graduate students, particularly Sekani Robinson and Natasha Moore, and with input from Anna Chatillon, the REN faculty, and department leadership have formulated the following statement regarding this past week's events, and the long history of racism, inequality, and systematic state violence against communities of color that gave rise to them:

As Faculty in The Department of Sociology at UCSB we stand with George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, Tony McDade, and other victims of state violence. We are outraged and profoundly saddened by their deaths, and know these most recent violent acts are only the latest in a long and painful history. We stand against that history and the ongoing presence of anti-blackness and state-sanctioned violence against Black people. We acknowledge and mourn the deep pain racialized state violence causes marginalized populations, many of whom are part of our community. As researchers of social interactions, social relations, inequality, and injustice we know that these egregious incidents do not occur in isolation. They are part of social systems designed to create and reproduce social misery for some and power for others. We remain committed to eliminating racism, sexism, and other oppressive systems in our community, in our nation, and across the globe. We see this work as fundamental to our work as sociologists and as teachers and mentors.

As a Department, we are committed to addressing the challenges of our time, which include systemic racism in the criminal justice system, in access to socio-economic and educational opportunity, and in health care, where we have seen the disparate impact of COVID-19 on people of color and immigrants throughout the United States.

We stand in solidarity with our Black graduate and undergraduate students, faculty, and staff who experience trauma, secondary trauma, exclusion, and isolation from racism. As a department, we commit to reflecting on and seeking out best practices on how to improve our support of all Black members of our department and the UCSB campus community.

We stand with those seeking justice in the streets of Minneapolis and across the globe.
#blacklivesmatter

The Department of Sociology, UCSB,

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