

# EDUCATIONAL SCHOLARS

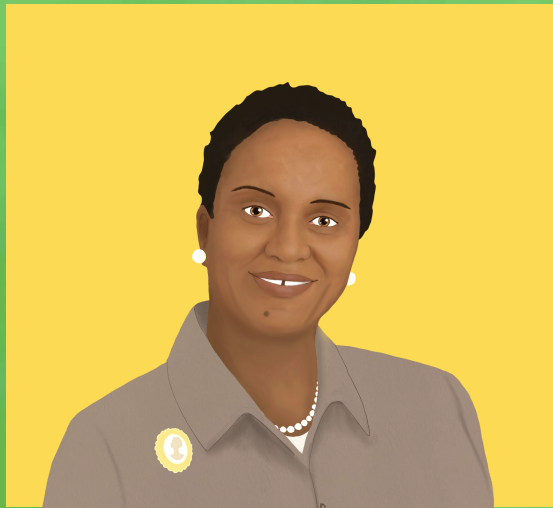
These Educational Scholars resources were inspired by an episode of Dr. Muna Abdi's podcast *Becoming An Antiracist*, in conversation with Liz Pemberton and Jamel C. Campbell. And by the conceptual paper *Black skin, White theorists: Remembering hidden Black early childhood scholars* by Anthony Broughton. You can listen to the podcast by [clicking here](#), and read the conceptual paper [here](#).

Traditionally, the voices of the educational theorists and scholars we know and are taught in training are predominantly white voices and more specifically, white male voices. Their research was carried out through the lens of a white person, and while they might not have explicitly excluded children who were not white, disabled, neurodivergent or who did not fit the idea of a typically developing child, they did not explicitly include them either. The need to engage with scholars who see through different lenses and explore and share their work for all children is vital.

Educators are trained in these theories and will make judgements on children's learning and development based on their theoretical knowledge. The perspectives we know and learn will likely be the perspectives we apply to our teaching and support. Therefore, to support the learning and development of all children in our educational settings and to deepen our understanding of their diverse lived experiences, we need to ensure our understanding of how children learn and develop is also diverse.

These resources are just snippets of the lives and works of some educational scholars, and we encourage you to delve deeper, challenge your thinking and be open to new ideas and new voices. This collection will continue to grow. We hope you will come back to this space to find out more about the multiple voices in education you might not have come across yet.

# DR. JOYCE E. KING



## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Dr. Joyce E. King (1947 - ) is an American researcher, lecturer, writer, teacher and trainer whose work spans decades and whose influence spans the globe. Dr. King is largely recognised for her work on racial equity and justice within Black education and teacher training.

## DR. JOYCE E. KING'S WORK

Dr. King's approach responds to the consistent and systemic challenges and discrimination Black people have experienced. These experiences play a role in disconnecting Black people from their rich history as they stem from systemic racism, discrimination and slavery. Dr. King's approach is focused on "restoring heritage knowledge" (King) and "re-building community capacity" (King), meaning that Black children are taught about the richness of Black history in both their education and their communities. The aim is to reconnect Black people to their "rich and dynamic cultural heritage" (King) and in doing so, knowing that Black history is not just slavery but is found in their "remarkable past that is evidenced in the great pyramids of Kemet (Egypt) and the Sudan and many other cultural treasures that confirm Africa as the cradle of human civilization." (King)

"Advocating equity and social justice and becoming active community-building agents for social change are educational and moral missions that good teachers of all colors and ethnicities need to embrace for the sake of their own humanity." (King)

The impact of Dr. Joyce King's work can be seen in her time as an undergraduate student at Stanford University in 1965. Much of her education, research and teaching explores the concept of 'dysconscious racism' which she describes as a form of racism which accepts the norms and privileges created by White people. The dysconsciousness refers to the absence of actively questioning, acknowledging or reflecting on these norms and privileges. Without questioning, acknowledging and reflecting on these perceptions, attitudes, beliefs and assumptions we perpetuate an inequitable society for Black children.

# REFLECTIONS ON JOYCE E. KING'S WORK

Change needs to start at the top and Dr. King is tackling issues of race in education at a pivotal point for teachers: during their own training.



Dr. King's work on dysconscious racism is an integral part in dismantling racism as a whole, not just within the education sector. It's something everyone would benefit from reflecting on.

Dr. King's work exemplifies how important a "curriculum" is and how much power it holds. What do you need to do to make sure your curriculum is truly inclusive?



## REFERENCES

- Broughton, A. (2020). Black skin, White theorists: Remembering hidden Black early childhood scholars. *Contemporary Issues in Early Childhood*, p.1-16.
- Dr. Joyce E. King. *Dr. Joyce E. King*. [online] Available at: <https://drjoyceeking.com/> [Accessed 13 Jun. 2022].
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