



UNDERSTANDING THE TIMES

KTLCC GIANTS WEBINAR, SATURDAY 23 JANUARY 2021

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1 Chronicles 12:23 & 32

²³These are the numbers of the divisions of the armed troops who came to David in Hebron to turn the kingdom of Saul over to him, according to the word of the Lord ... ³²Of Issachar, men who had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do, 200 chiefs, and all their kinsmen under their command. (ESV)

Understanding contemporary culture:

- ▶ Prophetic understanding
- ▶ The problems facing society
- ▶ An understanding of the philosophies

Understanding contemporary culture:

- ▶ How the Western world is abandoning its Judeo-Christian heritage in favour of:
 - ▶ Secular Humanism
 - ▶ Post-Christian Society
 - ▶ Post-modernism
 - ▶ Islam and the growth of Non-Christian religions

Cancel Culture: JK Rowling



- ▶ June 2020: JK Rowling faces backlash after tweeting support for 'transphobic' researcher
- ▶ Some corners of Twitter want the "Harry Potter" author cancelled after she stood up for a woman with a history of questioning the legitimacy of trans identities.

What is woke?

A woke person is said to have “awoken” to the need for social justice particularly in relation to those who are discriminated on the grounds of race, sex, gender, sexuality, disability and who is actively working to eliminate discrimination and oppression.

Robin DiAngelo

(“critical race and social justice educator”)

“Oppression involves institutional control, ideological domination, and the imposition of the dominant group’s culture on the minoritized group. No individual member of the dominant group has to do anything specific to oppress a member of the minoritized group”

(Is Everyone Really Equal (2017), Sensoy and DiAngelo, p62).

Robin DiAngelo

(“critical race and social justice educator”)

Which means that:

“...the societal default is oppression; there are no spaces free of it. Thus **the question becomes, ‘How is it manifesting here?’ rather than ‘Is it manifesting here?’**”

(Is Everyone Really Equal (2017), Sensoy and DiAngelo, p203).

The Christian Institute

(“Christian influence in a secular world”)

‘Identity politics’ is a divisive ideology that has come to dominate public debate. It fractures society into groups formed around characteristics such as gender, sexuality or ethnicity, pitting people against one another in an arms race of victimhood. It also shuts down debate: expressing anything but the most socially liberal views on issues such as transgenderism, homosexuality or abortion makes you unfit for any public office or platform.

(christian.org.uk/resource/identity-politics, May 2020)

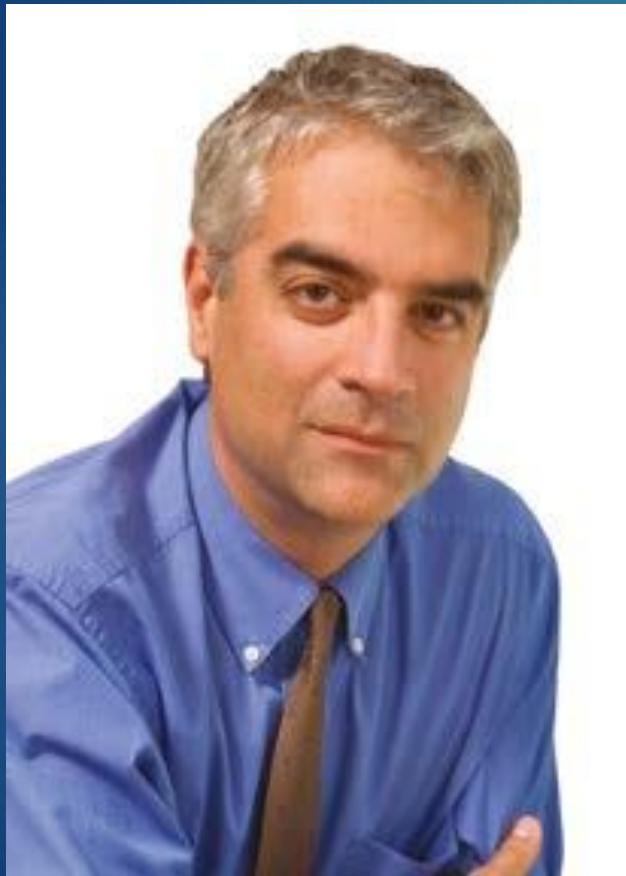
Christian Institute: Identity politics

Oxford University history professor Selina Todd has been instructed by university authorities not to attend lectures without two male bodyguards.

Trans activists made threats against her after she stated publicly that 'trans women' should not be admitted to women-only spaces.



Christian Institute: Identity politics



In 2015 **Yale professor Nicholas Christakis** was surrounded by outraged students in the university grounds and accused of racism.

His wife, also a Yale professor, had earlier emailed students suggesting that they should exercise their own judgement when deciding whether to wear Halloween costumes borrowed from other cultures.

Christakis was called “disgusting” and accused of having “created space for violence to happen”

Identity politics: Terminology

- ▶ Privilege

The result of belonging to a group in society considered to have benefited from the 'oppression' of a minority group.

- ▶ No-platforming

Barring someone from speaking because they do not agree with certain views. Even the most liberal speakers can fall out of favour.

- ▶ Intersectionality

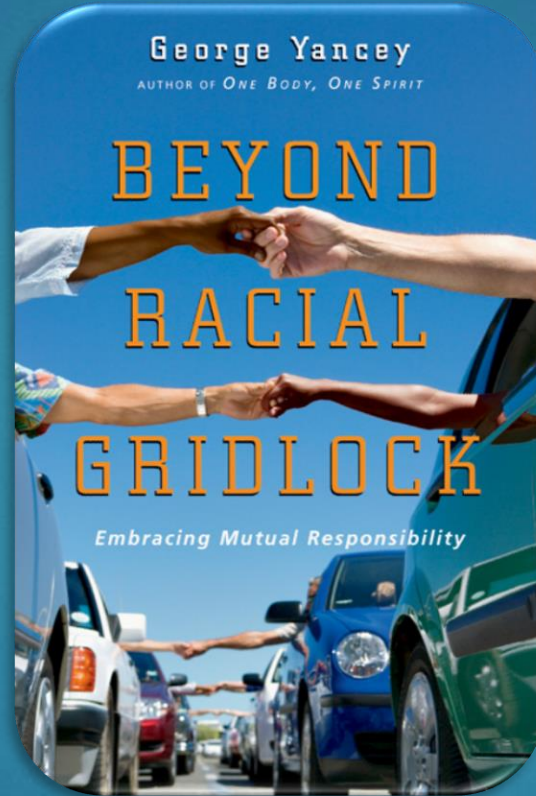
When someone belongs to more than one 'victim' group, amplifying the 'oppression' they experience.

- ▶ Microaggression

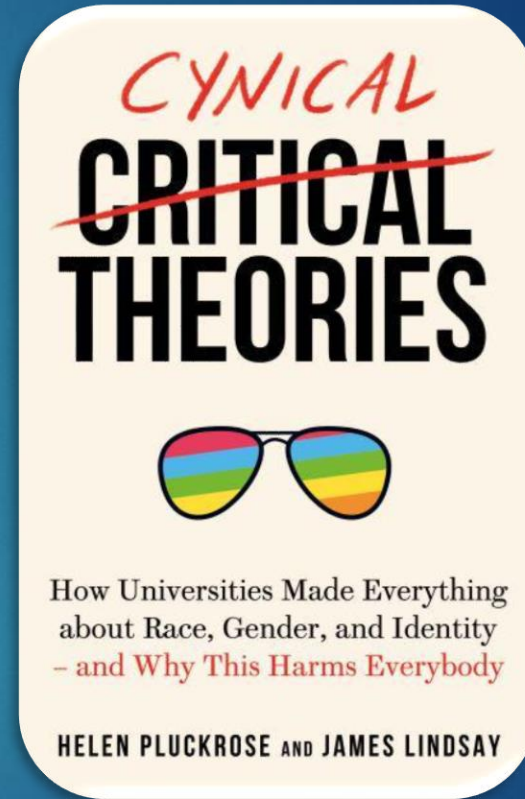
The most subtle forms of 'oppression', including even the most indirect or unintentional words or behaviour deemed to reinforce stereotypes or discrimination.



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Beyond Racial Gridlock
George Yancey



Cynical Theories
Helen Pluckrose
& James Lindsay