

New Educational Event Available

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The CUCS Academy for Justice Informed Practice recognizes that racism is an undeniable force in our criminal justice system and can be found at the individual, institutional and structural levels. The Academy continues to provide relevant, engaging and accessible educational resources and has expanded the racial justice lens of our core curriculum.

Additionally, we're very pleased to host Dr. Kirk James who will deliver a talk entitled: **Anti-Racist and Multi-Cultural Practices When Working With Justice-Involved People**

The current advocacy to end "mass criminalization" coupled with the "Black Lives Matter" movement to advance racial justice is in line with the historical struggle for equity and humanity in the United States by oppressed people. In her groundbreaking book, "The New Jim Crow," Michelle Alexander (2010) illustrates that not only are more Black men incarcerated today than were enslaved in 1850, but that Black men, women, and children are significantly overrepresented in every facet of the "justice" system. Alexander further points out that this overrepresentation is not accidental, or related to inherent "criminal" tendencies or actual crime rates, but is the result of an intentional strategy designed post-chattel slavery to continue the legalized control, exploitation, and oppression of Black bodies in America. Alexander's assertion is further substantiated by decades of quantitative and qualitative data from impacted people and academics. Yet what is often missing in the data, or the conversations are these questions: What is the traumatic impact for generations of people who have lived under these systems? And how can helping professionals honor the legacy and history of oppression, while co-creating tools with impacted people to better their lives, and ultimately transform our society?

This webinar/training will aim to answer those questions by briefly highlighting the United States' position as the world's leader in the arrest, jailing, and incarceration of its citizens. We will then explore the clinical and traumatic impact faced by impacted communities. And finally, we will explore multi-cultural therapeutic and service approaches — that are cognizant of the overt racialized targeting of Black and Brown people via carceral systems.

[To join us on 8/14, please click here to register.](#)

[For additional information on Dr. Kirk James click here.](#)

We are also developing a new course for our core curriculum called: **Mass Incarceration, Criminal Justice and Mental Health - A Racial Equity Perspective**

This course will provide context and historical background on the effect mass incarceration plays on racial/ethnic communities and the people who comprise them. The training will include a basic understanding of definitions related to racial equity, health equity and disparities in the context of marginalized communities, mental health and criminal justice involvement. Additionally, the course will utilize a racial lens when evaluating the different factors that affect an individual's ability to function and succeed in society. Attendees will gain an understanding about intersectionality and how different aspects of a person's identity shape the world around them. The material will help participants understand the concept of implicit bias and how we can mitigate the impact of bias when working with individuals with criminal justice involvement. The training will tool front line mental health workers with tangible actions they can employ to fight for racial justice in the lives of the people they serve.

We hope to start offering the new course later this year. Stay Tuned!

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Thank you,

The Academy Team

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