

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, NORTHRIDGE

Analysis of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) Policy

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## Dedication

This is to my family who has been supportive of my career goals since day one, to my friends who have been encouraging, supportive and understanding throughout this journey and to my husband who has walked by my side through this experience.

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## Abstract

### Analysis of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) Policy

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Master of Social Work

The purpose of this paper is to analyze how immigration laws such as Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) policy contributes to racism as a social construct in modern times. This policy analysis uses the Critical Race Theory to deconstruct DACA and analyze the intentional and unintentional consequences. Using CRT supported the idea that illegality is a status that is produced from political decisions and made by governmental representatives who have the power to change policies. Nonetheless, whether intentionally or unintentionally such policies maintain privileged groups protected, maintain White supremacy alive and contribute to systemic oppression in our country. This is why it is important to analyze the systems put in place that maintain racism alive and create awareness of how we all contribute to it. As humans on this earth, we need to increase our understanding of how race impacts the way we live, be aware of the privilege we hold while also being conscious of how race may impact others.

Keywords: DACA, Racism, Immigration

## **Introduction**

Immigration has been a social problem for many years. From a historical standpoint, social issues surrounding immigration have most often been viewed through a purely political lens. Legislation is frequently proposed and passed as a means to discourage and deter people from moving to this country by increasing restrictions for those living in the U.S illegally, placing roadblocks for those who seek legal means of entering this country and then ultimately, enforcing punishment on those who are caught entering or living in the U.S illegally (Meissner, et. al., 2013). These legal barriers have prevented many individuals from achieving true social mobility by means of limiting their access to resources or better opportunities (De Wenden, 2007). As a result, this group of individuals is placed in a sub-category that leaves them vulnerable to discrimination simply due to their alien status. Whether intentionally or unintentionally certain immigration laws reinforce the idea of “us vs. them” which widens the racial divide in our country, instead of helping the people that they are supposed to benefit.

The purpose of this paper is to analyze how immigration laws such as Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) policy contributes to racism as a social construct in modern times. We will show how this specific immigration policy, although presented as a positive solution, is a way to control certain racial and ethnic groups. We will analyze and deconstruct DACA to review its objectives, mission and intended and unintended outcomes on a micro and macro level using the Critical Race Theory (CRT) framework. Using CRT to analyze DACA will assist in demonstrating such policies, keep minorities in subordinate positions and set the agenda to disadvantage racialized groups further. Society has come to define oppression as an outcome or state that results

from the process of consistent resource asymmetry and unjust exercise of power (Watts, Griffith, and Abdul-Adil 1999). Although DACA has provided a multitude of benefits to a vulnerable segment of the population, it has also simultaneously perpetuated the cycle of systemic oppression by placing the immigrant population into the “other” category solely based on race. CRT brings awareness to how a society organizes itself along racial lines and hierarchies (Delgado and Stefancic, 2012) by looking at the relationship between race, racism, and power. It is important to be aware of the behaviors in which those in power (most notably those of Caucasian descent) make decisions on minority groups and how these patterns inculcate racism, prejudice, and oppression to new generations.

### **Literature Review**

Latinos are the fastest-growing cultural minority group in the U.S. According to the American Community Survey and decennial census data from the U.S Census Bureau and Integrated Public Use Microdata Series (IPUMS), California is home to approximately 11 million immigrants. In June 2012, during the Obama administration, legislation passed that showed a shift in support of a subclass of the immigrant population. President Barack Obama made an executive order to enact Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, also known as DACA. Since its inception, this policy has served as a safeguard for approximately 900,000 immigrants (Patler et. al., 2019). It serves to provide temporary protection from deportation as well as removing some of the barriers to employment and educational opportunities. However, many experts believe that this policy is not sustainable and could be possibly detrimental for the disadvantaged it is supposed to help. They argue that DACA is only a temporary short-term solution to

immigration, as DACA does not take into account how oppression and racism continue to impact immigration as a whole, despite the short-term opportunities afforded to those it can help.

Of the 3.2 million undocumented children and young adults in the United States, there are an estimated 1.49 million youth and young adults who are eligible for the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), (Migration Policy Institute, 2012). Although this policy has allowed individuals who immigrated to the United States as young children to receive work permits and obtain higher-paying jobs, the current framework does not offer a pathway to citizenship. Rather, it is a band-aid solution to a much larger problem, the systemic oppression and institutionalized racism towards people of color. Cultural minority groups such as Latina/o, Black or African American, and Native American individuals who have the advantage of having legal immigration status in the United States (i.e. U.S. citizenship or permanent legal residency) continue to face barriers that prevent them from achieving the same milestones of success in comparison to their peers who are white (Romero, 2008).

The government continues to develop measures to ensure that the policies they have established are followed through and properly enforced. Currently, there are six identifiable pillars that make up the immigration enforcement system. These pillars include border enforcement, visa controls/travel screening, information and interoperability of data systems, workplace enforcement, the intersection of the criminal justice system and immigration enforcement, and detention and removal of non-citizens (Meissner, et. al., 2013). Unfortunately, there have been several questionable ways that the government deals with the immigration issue. The ‘show me your papers’ inspection

of passports, identification cards, and other forms of documentation (a practice usually associated with totalitarian regimes), is now routinely used in the US to control access to social services, to authorize and regulate movement, and to single out specific racial groups for additional citizenship inspection (Caplan & Torpey, 2001). This type of control, through continuous inspection of documentation of citizenship, is just one example of how immigration policies are not equitable for all. Specifically, these policies and regulations continue to reinforce systemic oppression and create barriers for immigrants and people of color to access the same opportunities as White Americans.

### **Policy Description**

Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) was created because of the failure to pass the DREAM Act in 2010. The DREAM Act and DACA were both efforts to protect youth due to the influx of immigration and no plan for comprehensive immigration reform. As stated earlier, DACA grants qualified undocumented immigrants protection from deportation. In addition to that protective portion, it also grants a renewable work permit for two years. An applicant pays \$85 Biometrics fee and a \$410 work authorization document fee (Luna, 2016). The government agencies that oversee immigration include; The Department of Homeland Security (DHS), United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), United States Customs and Border Protection (CBP), and the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). Specifically, DHS is the agency that regulates DACA and the application process. Applicants of DACA pay for the program out of pocket while applying and renewing their application.

To be covered under DACA, one must be: an undocumented immigrant who resided in the U.S. since June 15, 2007; have arrived to the United States before their 16th birthday, possess a clean criminal record; be a high school graduate or GED equivalent; be currently enrolled in school, or have received a honorary discharge from the armed services (Fiflis, 2013). Along with getting a temporary work permit and social security card, some states allow a temporary driver's license (Perez, 2014). A driver's license allows recipients more freedom as they can travel within the United States. The social security card grants DACA participants additional resources like healthcare that could be provided through employment. They would also be able to build credit by opening credit cards and bank accounts (Lee, 2014). According to Gonzales (2016), from the American Immigration Council, DACA has given young immigrants access to higher education, trade schools and facilitated the ability to meet tuition needs while maintaining a job legally.

DACA has improved the lives of undocumented young people and their families and has also positively affected the economy more generally, which benefits all Americans (Wong et al., 2017). Authors Wong et. al, set out to study the effects of DACA on the United States economic, employment, educational and social experiences by surveying with a sample size of 3,063 participants across 46 states and found that DACA recipients make positive and significant contributions to the economy, including earning higher wages, which translates into higher tax revenue and economic growth that benefits all Americans. Also, DACA recipients are buying cars, purchasing homes, and even creating new businesses. The survey's results also show that at least 72% of the top

25 Fortune 500 companies employ DACA recipients. Moreover, 97% of respondents are currently employed or enrolled in school (Wong et al., 2017).

On January 25, 2017, President Trump issued Executive Order No. 13,768, “Enhancing Public Safety in the Interior of the United States.” In that Order, the President directed federal agencies to “ensure the faithful execution of the immigration laws . . . against all removable aliens,” and established new immigration enforcement priorities (Duke, 2017) as well as attempts to end DACA. The DHS announced that they would no longer accept any new applications for the DACA program, however, various federal courts in the U.S ruled in favor of DACA requiring DHS to continue accepting DACA renewal applications until final court decisions could be made. Currently, the U.S Supreme Court is considering whether President Donald Trump can go forward with his plans to end DACA.

According to Ruben Navarrete (2019), DACA is a poor man’s substitute for what this country needs and for what the undocumented deserve - comprehensive immigration reform. Navarrete points out that the positive outcomes created by DACA were never intended to be long-term protection. Mr. Navarrete compared this policy to a criminal parole: DACA recipients give up all their information and remain under scrutiny all while paying high fees for temporary protection.

## **Method**

### **Critical Race Theory**

Critical Race Theory (CRT) is defined by Delgado et al. (2012) as a movement created by activists and legal scholars interested in studying and transforming the relationship among race, racism, and power. CRT came about in the 1970s, as many legal scholars and activists realized advances of the civil rights era of the 1960s had stalled and in some circumstances were being reversed. Early writers of the theory such as Derrick Bell, considered many of the same issues that brought forth the civil rights and ethnic studies movements that aimed to set people free from racism and discrimination in the United States. Unlike traditional civil rights, CRT “questions the very foundation of the liberal order, including equality theory, legal reasoning, enlightenment, rationalism and neutral principles of constitutional law” (pg. 3). When applying a CRT lens on a social issue, it presents the opportunity to understand the cultural experiences of both white people and people of color. Additionally, CRT reveals how racialized immigration laws and citizenship distinctions allow physical appearance to serve as a way of controlling certain racial and ethnic groups (Romero, 2008).

CRT as a policy framework is valuable for the analysis of the DACA program because it will assist in describing and explaining how DACA perpetuates the cycle of systematic oppression as it once again majorly targets people of color. All individuals living in America have different experiences, specifically immigrants. Race, ethnicity, and immigrant status are not mutually exclusive categories. Intersectionality becomes crucial in theorizing about the immigrant experience in a nation that has a history of social exclusion by race, class, gender, and citizenship.

CRT has three goals including recognizing race is part of the social construct, examining race and racism and acknowledging the relationship among race, racism, and power (Parker & Lynn, 2002, p. 10). In addition to these three main goals, CRT has 5 different themes that help reveal racial inequity. The first one being that racism is embedded in the day-to-day American culture and when disregarding it allows for racial privilege. In the second tenet, CRT refutes the claim educational institutions make towards and challenges; objectivity, race neutrality, meritocracy and color-blindness. Third tenet insists on contextual and historical analysis of the law and offers a transformative response to racial, gender, and class oppression. The fourth tenet draws on lived experiences of people of color as opposed to institutions that have the power to distribute subjective knowledge of people of color. Lastly, CRT uses interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary approaches to analyze the knowledge learned with both historical and contemporary contexts as it seeks to eliminate racial oppression (Matsuda et al. 1993, p.6).

### **How has CRT been used and applied in the past**

Although CRT began as a movement within the legal system, it has expanded beyond that practice, for instance, in the field of Education, Political Science, American Studies, and Ethnic Studies. Additionally, this theory has also produced several spinoffs, including Critical White Studies, Latino Critical Race Studies, Asian American Critical Race Studies, American Indian Critical Race Studies, and Critical Queer Studies (Delgado et al. 2012). CRT has much to offer because it can address issues such as racial profiling, society's negative response and perspective on immigration, and the increased militarization of the US-Mexico border.

## **How we plan to use CRT**

The growing body of CRT literature has demonstrated that racism in the US can be fully comprehended by studying how immigration laws have detrimental consequences for all racial minorities. As discussed, CRT will be used in this analysis to identify the connections and relationship between civil rights and immigration laws, specifically DACA, to uncover the patterns of exclusion within this country. By utilizing CRT, we plan to demonstrate how current immigration laws are driving a wedge between immigrants and US racial minorities and have failed to break the historical patterns of discrimination against people who are not White.

## Results

### Centrality of Race/racism

When the image of an illegal alien is mentioned, in the context of immigration, what type of person is usually brought to mind? There is a strong probability that the image conjured is a person of color, specifically of Latino descent. The media and the way our elected officials respond to the immigration issue show an ingrained bias that runs deeply through the system, and it is this very reason it is necessary to examine the issue of race within this policy. Many might argue that race does not play a factor when it comes to immigration policies, but the reasons and justifications defending that stance would most likely be unfounded. This is an unfortunate result of color-blind racism, or the excusing of inequity among races as a result of natural or innate inequities that exist within the races themselves. As Douglas, Seanz and Murga (2015) put it, “the paradox of U.S. immigration is that while the country is recognized and celebrated as a nation of immigrants, its policies and the everyday lived realities of immigrants are dominated by the dynamics of White supremacy.” When examining DACA, it is apparent that this is true. Many factors for eligibility would be a struggle to achieve without citizenship, yet they are used as markers in determining the suitability of the applicant for the program.

The policy attempts to draw a line between those who would make potential good citizens, and those that would not. Adhering to all laws, being successful in school, or joining the armed services, are all requisites to being eligible for DACA (Fiflis, 2013) but how difficult are these to achieve when one does not have legal citizenship and is of a different skin tone than white? One would like to believe that these guidelines were not put in as purposeful barriers of entry into the program, but when examining the unique

challenges immigrant families face, it is hard not to see the inherent racist pitfalls of the policy. A child of an immigrant parent who speaks little English, and lives in the poorer, rougher neighborhoods of an American city, and is unconsciously ignorant of the law, is already placed at a great disadvantage for success (Landale, 2011). The expectation that an individual should model as an exemplary citizen in the face of poverty and class inequality in order to afford a handful of benefits (not including citizenship) shows a great disconnect between what the policy does, and what it was intended to do.

Policies, like the one described above, are reinforced and praised by many government officials and people in power in the United States. Thus, contributing to the continued patterns of systemic racism. Many in power have and continue to use their platform to voice their disapproval of immigrants in this country. For example, Congressman Ted Poe, who represents Texas's 2nd congressional district, frequently makes strong claims about immigrants who come to America. In a speech from 2014, Representative Poe clearly states that, "They [immigrants] believe that this president, this administration says, you get to America, we are going to let you stay...and Americans will take care of your needs" (qtd. In Saenz et. al, 1446).

In his speech, Representative Poe is specifically referring to, "illegal alien immigrants," as Mexicans who are described as the menacing threat invading the United States' southern borders. This speech is only 6 years old, not some archaic relic from the civil rights era or prior. If taken at face value, it appears that Representative Poe believes that the current influx of potential immigrants seek only to come to America and consume the resources; resources that belong to citizens here who can rightfully claim them since they were born on American soil. This idea that this newer generation of

immigrants is nothing but a drain on the nation's resources seems to be generally accepted by many Americans (Saenz et al, 2015).

### **Challenge to the dominant ideology**

Mexican immigrants are referred to as “foreign nationals” in many immigration documents, a term that treats them as abnormal visitors in our country, despite many of these people being here legally. A white person whether immigrant or citizen, does not have to contend with the ‘show me your papers’ mentality when living their day-to-day lives. It is in those observed phenomena that one can see that there is a specific, acceptable public misperception of who is an immigrant, and who is not (Douglas et al, 2015).

There is also an inherent lack of awareness and experiential understanding on the part of the original writers of the DACA policy. For instance, there is already a \$500 fee to obtain DACA status, so long as all criteria are met for eligibility, but instead of receiving all of the benefits which citizenship holds, there are unnecessary restrictions placed on these individuals. Originally, if applicants wished to travel, they needed to provide a reason that the government deemed acceptable. Additionally, the policy states that there is to be no travel for leisure's sake (Application for Travel Document, USCIS, 2016), a stipulation that no doubt arose from the post 9-11 era due to fear that immigrants who are traveling might be engaging in illegal activities. What other reason would an immigrant who is not from this country but is being allowed to stay in the country legally, and who has proven to pose no risk to the American government, not be allowed to travel for leisure at any time while under the umbrella of DACA policy? These folks have already proven to be good citizens with no criminal background, and yet they find

themselves barred from doing something that most people would consider to be a normal and rational activity – taking a vacation (U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services).

### **Centrality of experiential knowledge**

The benefits that DACA bestowed upon society cannot be denied and the studies into its efficacy back it up. It has done many great things for a segment of young immigrant people however, it does not grant what our forefathers considered to be universal for everyone, or “certain, unalienable rights.” This is a basic tenet on which all our laws are built upon, but the DACA policy is veiled by color-blind racism that attempts to control the people it is supposed to be helping. The policy’s criteria demand that applicants be free of a criminal record but ignores the race-driven politics that permeates law enforcement and the judicial system itself. This lack of understanding of the reality of being a person of color living within the United States borders simply feeds the cycle of systemic racism inherent in the legal infrastructure.

The law expects immigrants of color to be upstanding citizens even though concern over immigration to the US is inseparable from stereotyping Mexicans as ‘illegal aliens’ and socially constructing Mexicans as “criminal, foreign, and the other” (Romero, 2008). This oppressive stereotype follows young Mexicans from the very minute they touch United States soil and it is ever-present, no matter how much of a model citizen they resemble. In the current landscape of immigration policy, there can be no normal for any person of color, because they were never given the option. Even if a person meets the criteria for DACA, the eligible person is not even afforded the luxury of taking a vacation, for any reason whatsoever. They are considered “other” and these “others” cannot be trusted because people of color are depicted as receiving unmerited advantages,

which clash with the nation's ideals (Douglas et al., 2015). Unfortunately, many white Americans hold the belief that people of color receive unmerited benefits based on false stereotypes about their race or color. This type of belief continues to reinforce stereotypes, thus influencing the policies that govern immigration (Bonilla-Silva, 2014).

### **Interdisciplinary perspective**

DACA arose from the ashes of the DREAM Act, which itself was a byproduct of all immigration reform before it. To fully understand immigration law, it is critical to know its long and sordid history with the United States people. Immigration has arguably played the most critical function in the formation of the nation we observe today, but a look at historical evidence reveals that this relationship between America and immigration is a very abusive and codependent one. The concept of "illegality" as it applies to immigration has been socially, culturally, and politically constructed (Chavez, 2013). Throughout American history, the government has used U.S citizenship and immigration law to protect privileged groups from less privileged ones. U.S citizenship was a Whites only privilege and eventually got extended to racial and ethnic groups that had originally been incorporated to the country outside the traditional route of voluntary immigration. Douglas, Seanz and Murga (2015) revisit the history of immigration and break down how racialized immigration laws have operated in the United States for over 100 years. Beginning with the 14th Amendment enacted in 1868, which provided citizenship to individuals, formerly enslaved after the Civil War. Other groups were granted U.S citizenship as part of signing of Treaties, and policy changes that came along. Nonetheless, these Acts epitomized the racialization of immigration policies. The

primary focus of these Acts was to stop specific individuals from being able to immigrate such as Italians, Asians, and Jews (Douglas et al, 2015).

As individuals move across national borders, their status is determined by the policies in those nations. Illegality is a legal concept that marks a specific allegation by government enforcement agents, investigators and prosecutors of a particular type of conduct (Kanstroom and Menjivar, 2013). For instance, they can decide to allow immigrants to enter with approval of law, as legal immigrants and as legal workers/guests. But instead they choose not to, they choose to keep these individuals in this oppressed place where they are taken advantage of, viewed negatively by the general public and criminalized for seeking better opportunities. This is done intentionally to maintain privileged groups protected and maintain White supremacy alive (Douglas et al, 2015). The current policy being analyzed, DACA, is not the exception. DACA though presented as a form of protection, it leaves this group of individuals in a vulnerable place because they're not worthy of being citizens but they're also unable to leave the country or else they no longer qualify for DACA. The experiences of youth applying for DACA and the experiences of youth who successfully have DACA status is crucial to understanding U.S. immigration policy in an applied way. In a qualitative study conducted by Benuto, Casas, Cummings, and Newlands (2018) eight DACA recipients were interviewed to examine the factors related to the experiences of child immigrants, both during the application process to acquire DACA, as well as following the approval. Their findings revealed upon receiving DACA status, feelings of "non-belonging" were temporarily less intense however as participants encountered the limitations of DACA, these feelings returned. While DACA facilitates access to health

care, education, and legal system participation, it only temporarily mitigates the impact of having an undocumented status.

### **Commitment to Social Justice**

Immigration policies such as DACA reflect a lack of social justice perspective because despite its benefits it is not inclusive. Applicants must fit specific criteria to be considered eligible which ultimately creates a gap between those eligible and those who are not. This sets a precedent of who is worthy and who is not worthy of accessing certain benefits that American citizens do. Furthermore, it only grants a handful of benefits so long as they maintain being worthy of them. One mistake and all benefits could be taken away. These are the expectations for a group of individuals who were brought to this country as children and grew up as Americans with the exceptions of having legal status.

Congress holds the power to govern all areas of policy creation regarding immigration (Feere, 2009). Our current administration has made efforts to remove all individuals who are in this country illegally without considering the repercussions. Take for example, President Trump's Zero Tolerance Policy, a policy intended to ramp-up criminal prosecution of people caught entering the United States illegally. This allowed federal authorities to separate children from their parents, relatives or other adults who accompanied them in illegally crossing the border, resulting in approximately 3,000 children being separated from their parents (Busch, 2018). The children were placed among 121 shelters in 17 states. More than 40 percent went to Southwest Key facilities in Arizona, California and Texas. It was viewed as a strategy for keeping the US's borders safe and argued its effectiveness by assuming that people are "hesitating" about

coming in because of separation. It was not until there was a strong expression of public disapproval that President Trump signed an executive order halting family separation after 2 months following public announcement (Busch, 2018).

This is largely due to the idea that immigrants are mostly draining the system and being an economic burden to the nation. Women immigrants, for example, are thought to cheat the system by having too many children. Muslims are denied entry under pretenses of national threats and being justified as a way to protect this country. They take jobs away from deserving citizens, utilize resources, and have no respect for the law, and so on (Douglas et al., 2015). The current leader of the United States has not held back in voicing his thoughts and feelings on immigration, labeling immigrants as “terrorists, criminals, and rapists” ignoring the fact that White citizens are incarcerated for these crimes as well and at much higher rates (De Rugy, 2018). Nonetheless, messages as such instill fear in our society, which substitutes explicit racism language for state racism. In her book, *The Biopolitics of Race*, Sokthan Yeng (2014) argues that despite the fact that state racism is not a new phenomenon, modern racism is obscured by neoliberal economic discourse. The author points out how oftentimes politicians argue that anti-immigration policies are meant to protect the health of the nation, however, the populations most affected by these regulations are ethnic and cultural minorities such as Mexican and Muslim immigrants. Banning their entry into the U.S under national threat pretenses allows the state to substitute explicit racist language for state racism and is justified under the pretext that the health and cultural life of the nation need to be protected (Yeng, 2014).

## **Discussion**

### **Limitations**

This analysis offered a wealth of knowledge that provokes thought and leaves us with vitally important questions to grapple with. Racism is so embedded in this country and cannot be resolved neatly. Developing solutions is challenging and a limitation because analysis such as this invokes debate and places people on a different stance. Most of the research available portrays DACA in a positive light and highlights the handful of benefits provided for a significant segment of the population. The research that supported this analysis has come from more recent research that have examined DACA through different lenses and have taken into account factors such as race and oppression in their analysis such as (Benuto et al. 2018, Douglas et al. 2015) that previous research has lacked. Despite the rise in research that further analyzes DACA, race continues to be a factor that is not deeply examined as a contributing factor when it comes to immigration policies.

Nonetheless, such policies begin with policy makers; laws created “illegal aliens” and “immigrants”, laws could unmake them. There is a major gap in legislation when immigration policies such as DACA are put in place. This is because race continues to play a significant factor when such policies are made even when it is not addressed in a conscious manner. Using CRT supported the idea that illegality is a status that is produced from political decisions and made by governmental representatives who have the power to change policies (Chavez, 2013).

### **Social Work Implications**

Social workers, at the micro level, can support the clients and families that they work with as they navigate the challenges that they face within their day-to-day

lives. One example of this is that social workers can support these individuals' access services for documentation, medical treatment, housing, employment, etc. As discussed, many undocumented immigrants face difficulties with receiving equitable services and treatment. As social workers, we must ensure that we are challenging the social injustices that are hindering individuals' ability to access the same treatment that white Americans are utilizing. One ethical principle is, recognizing the central importance of human relationships. As social workers, we must remember this when working at the micro level. The key to change is not only advocacy and policy change. Rather, it is through relationships and direct service where we can challenge the barriers to change head on.

In addition, as social workers, it is also our job to ensure that every individual has an equal opportunity to succeed. In order to support the population at the Macro level, we can help build awareness, and to educate the community so that we increase advocacy for this vulnerable population. Macro level policy change is important in order to break the continued cycles of racism and oppression even when presented in subtle forms. This is why it is crucial to increase community awareness and encourage the community to be involved in policy advocacy to be the voice to break patterns of racism and oppression that continue to be in this country. Policy makers should be conscious on how current policies are not helping the country move away from systemic oppression and racism. Greater efforts should be made to stop dressing old problems, "ancient racism" with new clothes as Yeng (2013) put it.

## **Conclusion**

The purpose of this paper was to examine how immigration policies such as DACA perpetuate the cycles of racism and oppression. Using CRT as the framework to analyze DACA assisted in demonstrating immigration policies such as DACA, keep people of color in subordinate positions and set the agenda to disadvantage racialized groups further (Romero, 2008). The CRT framework has assisted in debunking the notion that racism no longer exists. By analyzing and revisiting the history of immigration policies, it was clear to see how people of color have always been viewed as inferior being's incapable of doing much and treated as second class citizens. It was the Post-Civil rights movement when there was a shift in how racism manifested in this country (Bonilla-Silva, 2014). Despite what many would argue, racism is embedded in immigration policies even if it looks different. Through this analysis it was clear to see how racism within our immigration policies continues to exist even when presented in subtler forms.

Furthermore, this analysis shed light on the lack of awareness among the White community on how they contribute to the issue of racism. Most Whites insist that minorities are responsible for whatever race problem exists in this country (Douglas et al, 2015). They publicly denounce blacks for playing the race card and believe that if blacks and other minorities would just work hard, forget the past and complain less, everyone could get along. Unfortunately, it is not that simple. That is why it's important to analyze the systems put in place that maintain racism alive and create awareness of how we all contribute to it. As humans on this earth, we need to increase our understanding of how race impacts the way we live and understand the impact race has on others.

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## Appendix A

### ADDENDUM – CSUN’s Satisfactory Academic Policy

**CSUN’s Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy** is a joint graduate project between Lucila Carmona Rodriguez and Marycruz Jimenez. This document will explain the division of responsibilities between the two parties.

**Lucila Carmona Rodriguez** is responsible for all the following tasks/document sections:

#### Introduction Section

- Abstract
- Problem statement (1st half)
- Policy Description of DACA (1st half)
- Literature Review
  - Looked at previous research on DACA/immigration and racism in our country.

#### Methods Section (2nd part)

- How has CRT been used and applied in the past
- How do we plan to use CRT

#### Results Section

- Principle 1 Centrality of Race/racism
- Principle 2 Interdisciplinary perspective/historical context
- Principle 5 Commitment to social justice

**Marycruz Jimenez** is responsible for all the following tasks/document sections:

#### Introduction Section

- Problem statement (2nd half)
- Policy description of DACA (2nd half)
- The social problem addressed by the policy

#### Methods Section (1st part)

- Critical Race Theory Framework (What is CRT and the 5 tenets)

Results Section

- Principle 3 Challenge to dominant ideology
- Principle 4 Centrality of experiential knowledge

Discussion Section

- Limitations
- Implications for Social Work

Both parties shared responsibilities for the following tasks/document sections:

- Discussion
  - Conclusion
- Proofreading/editing/formatting
- Meeting with Graduate Project Advisor to review research & support
- Create PowerPoint presentation

<u>Lucila Carmona Rodriguez</u>	<u>4/15/20</u>	<u>Marycruz Jimenez</u>	<u>4/15/20</u>
<b>Lucila Carmona Rodriguez</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Marycruz Jimenez</b>	<b>Date</b>

<u>Jodi Brown PhD</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Eli E. Bartle, PhD</u>	<u>Date</u>
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<u>Ioana Schmidt PhD</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Eli E. Bartle, PhD</u>	<u>Date</u>
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<u>Maria A Acuna PhD</u>	<u>Date</u>
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## Appendix B

### **A Critical Race Theory (CRT) Framework for Policy Analysis** **A policy analysis outline developed by Dr. David McCarty-Caplan, derived from Delgado, R., & Stefancic, J. (2017). *Critical race theory: An introduction*. NYU Press.**

The model for policy analysis can be divided into five sections: description of the problem that necessitated the policy, a description of the policy, an examination of CRT and its applications, a policy analysis derived from CRT, and limitations/conclusion. The purpose of this outline is to utilize CRT principles to reveal new insight into how we understand the functions and impacts of social policy.

#### **I. Introduction/Lit Review: Description of the Problem that Necessitated the Policy (problem statement)**

- What is the nature of the problem?
- How widespread is it?
- How many people are affected by it?
- Who is affected and how?
- What are the causes of the problem?
- Why does this policy need to be analyzed in a way that focuses on the centrality of the issue of race/racism?
- What is the method and purpose of your analysis? What is your ultimate social justice-related objective?

#### **II. Policy Description**

**\*some of the following may not be available. If not, just state which aspects are not.**

- How is the policy expected to work?
- What are the resources or opportunities that the policy is expected to provide?
- Who will be covered by the policy and how?
- How will the policy be implemented?
- What are the short- and long-term goals and outcomes of the policy?
- What are the administrative auspices under which the policy will be lodged?
- What is the funding mechanism for the policy?
- What agencies or organizations will be charged with overseeing, evaluating, and coordinating the policy?
- What are the formal or informal criteria that will be used to determine the effectiveness of the policy?
- How long is the policy expected to be in existence?
- What is the knowledge base or scientific grounding for the policy?

#### **III. Critical Race Theory** **(Equivalent of Methods section)**

- What is critical race theory?
- What are the primary components/principles of CRT?
- How has CRT been used/applied in the past? What contexts? (i.e. education, theory, practice, policy analysis?)
- How do you plan to use CRT?

#### **IV. Policy Analysis**

##### **(Equivalent of Results & Discussion Section)**

- Principle 1 – Centrality of Race/racism
  - Why is examining the issue of race/racism so important within this policy?
  - Are the intersections of race/racism and this policy consciously or unconsciously created?
  - How does the policy demonstrate race/racist inequity at both micro/macro levels?
- Principle 2- Challenge to dominant ideology
  - How does the policy reflect a sense that the experience of White European Americans are “normal,” or all others are “abnormal?”
  - How does the policy show a lack of equity, or awareness of injustice in society?
- Principle 3- Centrality of experiential knowledge
  - Does the policy ignore the lived experiences of people of color?
  - Can you assert the experiences of people of color in relation to your policy are different, legitimate, and integral to understanding your policy?
- Principle 4- Interdisciplinary perspective
  - What might a historical perspective add to your understanding of the policy, and your assertion that race/racism should be central to your analysis?
  - What other fields/professions/perspectives are important to include in your analysis of the policy? Why? What do they tell you?
- Principle 5- Commitment to social justice
  - What about your policy reflects a lack of social justice perspectives?
  - Who has access, voice, power in your policy creation, implementation, change, etc.

#### **V. Limitations**

- What information were you unable to get that may have helped your analysis?
- What do you see as the weaknesses of your application of the CRT framework?

#### **VI. Conclusion**

- Final take-away points?
- Suggestions for future analysis/research?
- Suggestions for policy-related action?

