On the concentric cycle of racism in Australia

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This paper examines how social structures and individual processes transform the humiliation of the dominated into the enraged violence of the dominator in racist societies, such as ours. In Australia, all too often racism is depicted through social media, and consequenced by the imbalances of power. The social structures of power within which we live are not merely situational settings, but also serve to constrain and free us. Individuals internalise values and attitudes during, in and through the socialisation process. It is through this process that the oppression and humiliation of the least powerful members of society becomes the norm into which most of us have been unconsciously conditioned. Similarly, when social structures are humiliating they do not merely constitute humiliating situations but are internalised as memories that inform our identity; as humiliator or humiliated. What characterises these social structures and personal experiences of humiliation is that they are always dualistic in nature. In other words, such characterisations can be dichotomously represented as the bipolar opposites of the oppressor and the oppressed, the powerful and the powerless, the haves and the have-nots, the humiliators and the humiliated, the proactive aggressors and the reactive aggressors, and the racists and the non-racists. In essence, the paper considers the crimes of the humiliator and the crimes of the humiliated as different sides of the story of racism in Australia.

Please select relevant theme

- [X] Manifestations and Impacts of Racism
- [ ] Fear, Nationalism and Race Hate
- [ ] Racism in Specific Contexts
- [ ] Developing Anti-Racist Futures - Visualizing alternatives for the future

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