

Title: And You Call Yourself an Ally: White Women, Anti-blackness, and a Discussion of Ijeoma Oluo's interview with Rachel Dolezal

Presenter: Karla Knutson

Time(s): 11:15am - 12:15pm and 3:00pm - 4:00pm

Location: Old Main 332

Session Format: Large-Group Discussions

Session Learning Outcomes:

1. Encourage white women to confront and analyze their participation and/or complicity in racist systems of oppression. It is also our hope that this discussion provides a space for women of color on campus to share their views and challenge other participants' perspectives.
2. Educate participants on instances of white women commodifying or appropriating the work and narratives of black women and why those instances are violent.
3. Create a foundational experience of exposure to white women's microaggressions that will hopefully incentivize participants to continue their own research and self-analysis.
4. Participants learn what platforms and spaces are appropriate for them to engage in and dominate.

Session Description:

The Women and Gender Studies Program would like to host a discussion to analyze Ijeoma Oluo's article, "The Heart of Whiteness: Ijeoma Oluo Interviews Rachel Dolezal, the White Woman Who Identifies as Black." We will have a short explanation of the context of Rachel Dolezal, and then read excerpts of Oluo's article, before facilitating a discussion with participants about the subject matter.

This is the link to the article:

<https://www.thestranger.com/features/2017/04/19/25082450/the-heart-of-whiteness-ijeoma-oluo-interviews-rachel-dolezal-the-white-woman-who-identifies-as-black>

Although we will read excerpts from the article in the session, we would like the article to be included in the program so folks who would like to read the whole text can do so in advance.