

profiled. I am also going to break the racial profiling into different categories. I am going to talk about the fear of black men that develops and white privilege that comes with racial profiling.

Some of the ways that racial profiling happens is in jokes. There are many jokes about different races and from these jokes we get many ideas about how different races act. One story teller in particular told a joke that she had heard from a friend. The story teller told the joke in response to story teller number 1 saying that he had never heard a joke about a white person. The joke ended with the idea that black women are more aggressive and in charge of their relationships compared to women of other races.

This particular joke is your typical black man, white, Chinese man. I was like they still do this. So there is ted with. He would tell his wife when I come home from work I better

done, house spick and span clean. He let her know he appreciated what she did. The Chinese man would

wanted it. The black man tell his wife this and the next day when he come to and his eye healed and he was able to talk

ways cuz I know it. I know a little Chinese woman, who was about this short and she was the feistiest

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This joke is about how women of different races are supposed to be more passive wives than black women. This is an act of racial profiling because we are basing this stereotype on characteristics that particular wives of color have. The joke does not tell the listeners anything about the wives except the color of their skin. This joke assumes that all black women are violent. The story teller tells about how the black wife hit her husband when he started to make the demands that the other husbands had made. This leads the listeners to assume that white and Chinese women do not demonstrate acts of domestic violence. Jokes like this are the way that stereotypes are kept in existence. If one person hears the joke and likes it than they are going to tell their friends and the chain will continue.

At the end of the story the story teller demonstrates her frustrations that she has with the joke. She says that black women are not the only race to demonstrate this sort of behavior. She knew a Chinese lady that went against the joke because she (the Chinese lady) was not passive. Not all black women are aggressive but because of this joke and stereotype of black women that is what we are led to believe. How is society supposed to learn any better if this is all that they are hearing? The only way they will learn to break the cycle is if they know someone that breaks the stereotype and they stand up for that race.

Racial profiling does not only exist in the jokes that we tell though. Racial profiling exists everywhere we look. It happens with the government, schools, family, work, church, and everywhere we look. It happens to young and old people. It even happens to some white people, especially white people who choose to live or work with black people. There was one story teller who was white but he had lived in a black community and went to a black church where he was accepted as one of their own. He worked for an all white firehouse and was there when the firehouse started to integrate. He was often made fun of by his co-workers because he was friendly

³ Story Teller Number 2 2009 (second story). Joke was told in reference to a comment made by story teller 1 in previous statement. The story tellers are numbered in the order that they told their stories.

with the black workers. One story he tells is about when they are all watching the news together and some black criminals come on the television.

black but I worked in an all white setting and there was not one single full time black man working for the city. The [local city] in 1986 its all the way up to 1988 and I was there when I integrated it by hiring the first black firefighter. It was challenging to hear a lot of the comments and the people targeted me having fun as they were getting ready to be integrated. But you could see the discomfort with people facing some of their

some young black m

and all that kind of stuff but it was again humor was a way again you know racial jokes or sexual jokes are

This story shows many ways that people are racially profiled. The co-workers of the white fireman were stereotyping his neighbors just because of their race. They were assuming that just because his neighbors were black that they were all criminals. The firemen had no idea about the character of the neighborhood but just assume that all black men are criminals. This story also demonstrates how white people are so willing to talk about a black person when they are not around, implying covert racism -white environment with the assumption of shared values. A new black co-worker was brought in and instead of trying to get to know the person they were making racist comments behind his back. This is not a way to try and make him feel welcome. They were too busy making fun of him when they should have been trying to mak

to sleep on the gym floor. It was a black church that was going to some sort of march in D.C. and because they were a United Methodist church they contacted ours to stay there. And my father became very upset

and again people would have claime

other. So that was always in my family background.⁵

Story teller number 7 talks about how his father was afraid to stand up for what he thought was right. The Bible preaches that you are supposed to love your neighbor equally but when it came down to it the white church community could not use that method. Like what was already discussed it was not socially accepted for white people to be nice to blacks and the white church would have been looked badly upon by the white community. The white church was more worried about what kind of reputation they would have received. What the church should have been focused on was helping out their fellow neighbors regardless of color. Jesus talked about acceptance and loving your neighbor as you love yourself. The storyteller's father was afraid to stand up for what was right because he would have been scolded by his congregation and his community. In the end though, his father realized that he should have stood up for the black church because they are neighbors. He talked about the importance of taking the risk for what you feel is right even if you are going to lose some respect in the end.

Racial profiling even happens in families. This can stem from the fear of the unknown where many people profile blacks simply because they do not know about the culture or the experiences that the culture has faced. One story teller tells about an experience that her father had. He had grown up in a small town where there were not many black people. So because of that his family did not have any black friends. She tells a story about her fat

The other story teller tells about how he is judged because of the way he looks. He is a bigger black man that has dread locks and he is judged whenever he walks down the street. Not only do people think he is dangerous they often think that he is doing drugs or is a drug dealer.

issue. You gonna

would have taken the community to get recognized if this one white man and black community had not come together to get what they deserved.

Another story teller talks about how a white woman had grown up believing something she was told about blacks. She was never corrected and thought that this fallacy was true her whole life. This could be an example of white privilege because the whites were able to say anything they wanted. Since it came from a

years old. This old lady, the sweetest lady on the planet, sweetest lady on the planet, she comes in on Tuesdays. Why do you come in on Tuesdays by yourself? She says it only takes one to watch a movie. She comes in, everyone knows this is my last day workin so she comes in on a Tuesday, she says well around well

she felt like this was the only opportunity she had to ask this in particular question. She says well can we

*to fighting and my friend went to jail even though the other lady was over her house and hit her first.*¹³ *get*

This story tells about how blacks are more likely to go to jail even though the white person may have caused the crime or started the fight. In this story the story teller tells about how her friend did not have the character of a criminal. The reader can tell by the story that this is not usual for this black woman. The first sign is that she is calling her friend to call her mother to come and get her out of jail. Many people would not call their mothers to come and bail them out of jail. They would have asked a friend to come and get them. The story even says that the white woman was the first one to throw a punch but the black woman was the one that went to jail. If there was an altercation between the two women then they both should have gone to jail and not just the black lady.

The society that we live in teaches that if there is a fight between a black and white person that the black person is automatically the one that gets punished. The jails are overpopulated with people in jail and a majority of them are of the black population. This does not mean that black people are the only ones committing crimes. It is quite the opposite. There are more white criminals but they are more likely to get a lighter punishment by the criminal justice system. This also means that less black people will be able to get jobs because once a black person has a criminal record it is 40% harder for them to find a job.¹⁴ This is why there are so many black people that live in poverty. They are unable to find jobs and many of them will end up going back to jail.

13 III. *Final Reflections on Stories, Data, and Understanding Racial Conflict*

Participating in the 2009 Story Circles has really opened my eyes to the nature and extent of racial conflicts that are happening right here in Akrlfays tknownbhat ar3(a)-3(rci-3(s)5(m)6 il e)-43(xit)4(e)5(r]TJET

This was a great project to take part in and I think this is a great way for the stories to live on. By participating in the story circles the stories we collected will continue to be heard. The articles that we read in class were also a great tool for analyzing these stories, connecting our small sample of stories to larger data sets to deepen our analysis. They allowed us as writers to be able to see the underlying themes that were taking place in the stories. The themes did not have to be directly spoken for us to be able to detect them.

The articles showed us that there is a disproportionate number of black individuals that are in prison compared to white individuals. It is also harder for black felons to find a job and many felons lose their right to vote which is taking away from the black population as a whole. In order to stop this discrimination we have to first be able to figure out why this is happening. We live in a land where supposedly everyone is equal but we can see from these stories and the articles that this is not true. Hopefully one day we will be able to live in a land where people will not continue to be judged on the color of the skin but on the content of their character and personality.

References

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