



## **AIELOC and Women of Color in ELT Conference**

**13 November 2021**

***Rama Ndiaye***

**Opening**

***Darnell Fine***

### **“Day of Absence”: A Retreat for Communities of Color to Unpack Internalized Racism**

The Day of Absence is an internal retreat for schools to provide a cathartic experience for their Community of Color. This session will provide a model for how we, as educators of color, can make space at our schools to develop a deeper understanding, investment in, and appreciation of ourselves. The Day of Absence is community-oriented, centering educators of color’s needs and aspirations. Any Day of Absence should also push us to develop self-efficacy beyond the institution. In this space, we should be bold and vulnerable in order to explore what is possible within ourselves and our communities.

In this session, I will provide tools from the Day of Absence that could be used for defining and examining internalized racism (or appropriated White Supremacy) and its impact on us as people of color. This will also involve sharing how we can identify specific ways each of us has experienced internalized racism, whether at your current school or society at large. I will present a model of change that could be used during the Day of Absence to improve our self-efficacy and build our self-love. Finally, I will present a (de)commitment protocol for committing to self-work and racial healing, with the intention of rejuvenating and empowering ourselves as people of color.

***Ceci Gomez-Galvez***

**Language Equity: Redefining our Language Learning Practices to Empower Multilinguals**

In this session, participants will explore translanguaging approaches that promote language equity in their multilingual classrooms; connect as language educators with the experiences of our students as language learners; and hear student voices who have been empowered by valuing language equity in their learning experiences.

***Tiwana Merritt and Constance Collins***

**Countering Savior Mentality: Critical Engagement in Our Local Communities**

One of the appeals of international schools is that it gives families, students, and educators opportunities to travel the world and experience a myriad of cultures. This workshop will give us space to reflect critically on the ways we navigate our local contexts and devise ways we can meaningfully engage in service learning with our faculty, families and students.

***Xoai David***

**Persistence - ODIS Collective and the IB, One Year Later**

Over a year after starting a petition to make the IB anti-Racist, Organisation to Decolonise International schools (ODIS) has found a wonderful collective of allies, and even started a long-term dialogue with the International Baccalaureate Organisation (IBO). There are many challenges to this, but our optimism remains in the thriving community of advocates like AIELOC, and young activist students.

***Fernanda Caetano***

### **Fostering Belonging in the classroom through rapport and decolonial perspectives**

It is widely believed that when learning a new language the social and affective factors are key for a student's success. However, it is crucial to understand and clarify what aspects of rapport can help not only the students, but also the teachers to create a safe space so that everybody can show their true potential and naturally accelerate one's natural process of learning.

It is important to highlight that *Belonging* might be understood in different ways by different individuals, this is why ELT professionals have to be equipped with tools which empower them to fight against colonial heritages that makes co learning spaces traumatic for BIPOC.

During this talk, teachers will be able to revisit familiar concepts about rapport as a tool to fostering belonging, but also will be invited to reflect, unlearn and then experiment new ways of making it effective including it as a part of their curriculum.

***Sherri Spelic***

### **At Home and Away: Building Connections That Allow You to Thrive Year Round**

It's one thing to talk about anti-racism on social media or in a conference workshop, it can be a very different experience to be the messenger of anti-bias in our own institutions. In this workshop we'll talk about why being 'a prophet in your own country', so to speak, is often fraught. One strategy that may help is to remain vocal outside our institutions, attending and delivering workshops,



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building and growing networks in order to help build capacity within our schools and organizations. We'll discuss steps we can take to advocate for positive institutional movement without feeling a need to become the "race whisperer" or other marginalization-expert for our close colleagues. If you're feeling caught, stuck or overwhelmed by schools' sudden uptick in anti-bias activity and wondering about your role in supporting it while also protecting your own well-being, join us for this session!

***Dominique Dalais***

### **Conversations with an International Teacher of Colour - Discussions on Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Anti-Racism**

Dominique will talk about his journey as the lead of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in his group of schools. He will discuss how they have developed a DEI Council, formed working networks, invested in training, initiated cross campus awareness raising events, raised money for black owned businesses, initiated student driven events as well as created a charter and vision which include goals. He will explain his next steps and how he has connected with various organisations such as AIELOC, ISS, ECIS, Search Associates through his podcast to learn and spread the word of all those who have been doing this work.

***Fandy Diney***

**Closing**