

PUBLIC POLICY, BLACK INTELLIGENTSIA AND THE PEDAGOGY OF RESISTANCE

**Toward a self-reflexive Black commons in the
neoliberal context**

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Presentation agenda

1. Acknowledgements

- Indigenous Canadian and Land acknowledgment
- Maafa

2. State of research on African Canadian Leadership

3. Introduction

4. BCPN: goals, objectives and frameworks

5. Du Bois and Gramsci

7. Conclusion: Beyond Walter Rodney

Carl James's 5 point typology

1. Role models

These are persons who work with persons with lesser and varying degrees of inexperience to develop competencies and access. A Black Canadian Policy Network, particularly to position African Canadians into policy making positions will need to cultivate mentoring experiences

Carl James's 5 point typology

2. Corrective agents

These are intellectuals who take on a disciplining role by demanding conformity to behavioural norms and who hold up African Canadians against the measure of other presumably more and better organized ethnic and negatively racialized communities. Given the tendency of social conservatism in many African Canadian communities, corrective agents cannot be easily dismissed.

Carl James's 5 point typology

3. Arbitrators

Typically airlifted in from the US by Canadian political leaders, these are a type of 'corrective agent'. Their chief function is to shame Black communities by emphasizing their deficits and to offer a compliance and conciliation to white power.

Carl James's 5 point typology

4. Change agents

James describes change agents as typically younger and more direct action oriented intellectuals. They are frequently labeled “agitators, provocateurs and extremists” from from the more conservative members of African Canadian communities and outsiders alike.

Carl James's 5 point typology

5. Cultural curators

These are the intellectuals whose activism centres on culture as a site of resistance and the fortification of African Canadians' sense of self.

George Dei

Indigenist African Canadian leadership

1. Pan African in nature
2. Intellectuals are griots who together cultural values and traditions across time, place and space to anchor African Canadians in the here and now

George Dei

Indigenist African Canadian leadership

3. African Canadian academics have a special role as specialists in knowledge acquisition, clarification and dissemination for the socially transformative struggles of African Canadians

George Dei

Indigenist African Canadian leadership

4. African Canadian intellectuals in general, academics in particular, must:
 - a) make sacrifices for the collective good
 - b) formulate an ideology away from materialism toward Indigenous African concepts of spiritual ontology and knowledge principles

David Austen, Wesley Crichlow, Amoaba Gooden, Cecil Foster, Christopher J. Williams, Wesley Crichlow, Rosalind Hampton and Desiree Roachat have noted that historically and contemporaneously

- a) Black leadership and organizational building is the work of activist community-based intellectuals
- b) Black women have always been key players in founding women led organizations and supporting community-based organizations
- c) Black queer intellectuals have always been vital activist, analytical and community organizing roles

Other scholars of African Canadian leadership (Historians)

- Afua Cooper
- Barrington Walker
- Karolyn Smardz Frost
- James Walker
- Robin Winks

Dr. Lorne Foster

- Scholar and public intellectual
- Columns in *Share Newspaper* (1999-2007)
 - Provided detailed strategies for exercising Black leadership
 - Outlined the challenges facing African Canadian leaders
 - Advocated for a national African Canadian organization

What form will/should the BCPN take?

- a) a pressure group expressly embedded in organic ways to the totality African Canadian life as this manifests in the communities cultural, economic, political, social and spiritual/religious existence,
- b) the equivalent a Party
- c) an appendage of government that absorbs and directs the capacities of the African Canadian cultural intelligentsia toward a more finely grained administration of both bio-power and necropolitics?