HISTORY OF RACE, CRIMINALIZATION & ANTI-BLACKNESS IN ORANGE COUNTY

Mau Trejo (they)
Santa Ana, CA / Leimert Park, CA
OPENING: INTRODUCTIONS

Say Hi!

Introduce Yourself,
Where Are You From?
What Do You Do?
Why Do You Do it?
What Brought You to this session?

Workshop Objective

➔ Educate around history of race, criminalization, and anti-Blackness in Orange County.
➔ Provide tools/frameworks for working alongside Black community members.
➔ LEARN & APPLY!

Workshop Overview

This interactive presentation will provide participants with a historical overview of race, criminalization, and anti-Blackness in Orange County. Participants will walk away with an understanding of policies that have and continue to impact Black people, particularly immigrants in Orange county, and ways to support Black-led efforts locally.
ICEBREAKER

- How do you define racial justice?
- What are populations your organization works with?
RACE AND DIFFERENCE IN COLONIAL AMERICA

- Indigenous folks robbed of their land, largely slaughtered
- African people enslaved against their will
- Mostly Irish indentured servants (signed contract of servitude in exchange for transport to the New World, food, housing, etc.)
- Mostly English wealthy land-owning and merchant classes
1. Enslaved Africans and European indentured servants (and sometimes captured Native Americans) often worked side by side doing backbreaking plantation labor.


3. The first instance of the word “white” used to describe people appears in 1671.

4. Racial codes were passed, first in Virginia, and then throughout the colonies - firmly inscribing in law a caste and class system based on race.

5. Law enforcement in the US has always been about racial control:
   a. The first Sheriff’s Departments were runaway slave patrols (aka “Paddy Rollers”) who enforced Slave Codes, laws making Black folks property.
   b. The first US Rangers were “Indian hunters” who massacred thousands to clear the way for European settlers to move West.
Blackness and the Law Post-Civil War

- The system of **Slave Codes** persisted from the late 1600s thru the Civil War (1860-65)
- **Reconstruction** (1865-1877) - Black literacy surged, Black folks elected across the South and for the first time in US history had a hand in their own political and economic self-determination (Federal Troops kept the peace)
- **Compromise of 1877**: Republicans agreed to pull the last federal troops out of the South, and a period of terrorism and racist revenge ensued
- **Black Codes**: laws instituted after the end of Reconstruction that restricted Black folks’ right to own property, move in public spaces, etc.
- **Convict leasing/chain gangs**: Black folks convicted of minor “crimes” and sentenced to unpaid labor - often leased out to their former masters
Orange county is anti-black.

“Alexander Toppin, 1897

A Black incarcerated person was the cook at the Orange County Jail in 1897. They are in this image. There is proof that they existed, that their unfree labor was used, that they lived a Black incarcerated life. That Black folks have been here for a long while. Alexander Toppin. 1897.

#adifferentshadeoforange

- @ADifferentShadeofOrange
“ANTI-BLACKNESS DESCRIBES THE INABILITY TO RECOGNIZE BLACK HUMANITY.”

DR. KIHANA MIRAYA ROSS
“Juan Crow Laws” & The Impacts in Orange County

- “Juan Crow” describes racist policies targeted at Latino immigrants & compares oppressive immigration laws to Jim Crow laws
- In 1855 CA enacted the so-called "Greaser Law" to restrict the movements of people of Mexican descent
- Mendez v Westminster, 1947 - Mexican-American families sued against school segregation in Orange County
- Prop 187, passed by CA voters in 1994 tried to make it illegal for undocumented immigrants to use state resources
"SHOOT TO KILL," SAYS SHERIFF

City Council Authorizes Purchase of Park Site

Scripps Sells Paper In Youngstown, Ohio

Chairman of Board Declares Economic Conditions Do Not Warrant Two Papers in City of 170,000 Population

TOO MANY, SAYS COUNCILMAN

WHAT BECOMES OF THE OLD TOWN?

When Violence Flared In County Citrus Strike

159 Strikers, Agitators Jailed After Concerted Attacks, Bloodshed

BULLETIN

Authorizing the payment of $11,000 for acreage along Creek

That Tender Old Question of how to get more land for the park is being answered in the city council of Chandler in a manner that will benefit the board of supervisors and the community. The council has approved an agreement for purchase of three additional acres of land adjacent to the present State Park and park.
Think about policies, laws, incidents that have fueled the criminalization of Black community members.
IN ORDER TO BREAKDOWN THE WAYS IN WHICH THE PROPAGANDA OF CRIMINALIZATION CONTINUES TO NORMALIZE THE VIOLENCE AGAINST IMMIGRANTS AND OTHER COMMUNITIES OF COLOR, WE’VE BROKEN DOWN THE TOOL BELT USED TO SOCIALLY CONSTRUCT THAT VICIOUS REALITY.

CANCER INJECTIONS

LAW

POLICE PRIVATIZATION

DATABASES

SURVEILLANCE

RAIL BONDS

JAILS/PRISONS/DETECTION

ALIENATION

SCHOOL TO PRISON/DETECTION PIPELINE

CONDITIONAL PROBATION
Although respectively, Latinx and Black people make up 34.1% and 1.6% of the Orange County population, they represented 46.5% and 6.7% of Orange County Jail bookings indicating significant racial disparities. These disparities were relatively consistent over the time period analyzed with the Latinx proportion of bookings increasing from 44.5% to 49.5% of bookings and the white proportion of bookings decreasing from 41.4% to 35.5%.

Although women make up 20.8% of bookings into OC jails, they represented 37.8% of the bookings for substance use related charges, suggesting a significant gender disparity.

Although Vietnamese people make up only 30% of the Asian community in Orange County, 42.5% of the Asian people booked into an OC jail were Vietnamese.
HOUSING IS A HUMAN RIGHT - BUT FOR WHO?

2.2% of Orange County’s population is Black

6.22% of Orange County’s unhoused population is Black

11.01% of Orange County’s sheltered unhoused population is Black

Credit: @BlackOCArchive
IMMIGRATION IS A BLACK ISSUE
Who is getting left out? What are the impacts?

Who has access to funding? Who doesn't? Who gets left out?
ADOPTING PRO-BLACK FRAMEWORKS AND CULTIVATING COMMUNITY.

What does this look like in practice?

How do we build alongside Black people?

What structures do we put in place to uplift Black folks in our community?
BREAK OUT QUESTIONS

How can you and / your organization build relationships with Black people in OC? How does your organization already do this?

What does multi-racial solidarity look like for you / your organization?

What are our personal commitments to Black liberation?
BLACK-LED ORGANIZATIONS TO SUPPORT & BUILD WITH!

- Black Alliance for Just Immigration
- Haitian Bridge Alliance
- Cameroon Advocacy Network
- Peoples Coalition OC
- Black LGBTQIA+ Migrant Project (BLMP)
- BLM - Los Angeles & BLM Grassroots
- OC Rapid Response Network
CAT 911:
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCTELb2Y9KU1CM_J31JoWdgg

Haymarket Books:
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCXu5dcswjbA0zpXL1Bn5NmQ

Redfish:
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCHgnQzZY7T9Txh140BmKJwQ

Claudia Jones School for Political Education:
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UClz1ThQo9zvCYFvHuwn83WQ

Virtual ‘library’:
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1P8aIjG8h7W9m4PljbmYZB1Z9Blix8a2dMGjDqOkoLy0/edit?usp=sharing