

In Solidarity with Dr. Constantine 1



Gargi Roysircar-Sodowsky, Ph.D.  
Director, Multicultural Center for Research & Practice  
Department of Clinical Psychology

40 Avon Street  
Keene, New Hampshire 03431-3516  
603.357.3122 [www.antiochne.edu](http://www.antiochne.edu)

Tel: 603-283-2186  
Fax: 603-357-1679  
[gargi@antiochne.edu](mailto:gargi@antiochne.edu)  
<http://multiculturalcenter.blogspot.com>

October 15, 2007

### **We Stand in Solidarity with Dr. Constantine and Against Racism**

This is a statement of support for Dr. Madonna Constantine, an African American professor and researcher, and for her diverse faculty colleagues and students of counseling psychology, Teachers College, Columbia University, most of whom do research on black and white racial identity, racial microaggression, social justice, and multicultural counseling competencies. We want these scholars to continue doing valuable research in safety and freedom and not to have to pay the price of their well-being and human dignity for their academic pursuits and/or their ethnic, racial, and cultural affiliation/identity.

We are both sad and angry, emotions we cannot describe in prose. So in verse we say,

There's a woman over there.  
What's her color? I don't care.  
Madonna is my sister, let us live in peace.

Such a simple sentiment, so obviously the way to feel,  
Why do so many continue not to get it?

Long may Dr. Constantine stand in the community proud, strong, unafraid  
Withstanding the assault with resilience and knowledge, while the hate mongerers  
Hide behind their ignorance and rope and awareness of their power.  
Come out come out where ever you are.  
You're planfully antisocial and outright hostile.  
You must be stopped before you scheme worse hatred.

It can be hard not to be discouraged about the four-foot hangman's noose on Dr. Madonna Constantine's office door in Teachers College, Columbia University, as ethnic strife continues to be a major reason for global killing. We've been hating and killing the Other for a long, long time. The October 9<sup>th</sup> 2007 despicable incident at Teacher's College is a painful, but important wake-up call to speak up and defend those who are targets of both overt and subtle racist incidents and comments as well as of microaggressions on our nation's campuses. Let's not be disheartened. Let's turn this horrible racist incident into a teachable moment. We still need to keep our eyes on the prize of creating what Martin Luther King, Jr.,

called the Beloved Community. When we stand together in peace and justice, it makes a difference.

Patricia Marshall, Clinical Mental Health Counseling, says,  
“My supervisor has a wonderful poster in her office. It is a drawing of two small children and a sign that says ‘The worst disease our kids can catch/inherit is RACISM.’ Racism of all kinds including classism is learned and I believe can be unlearned if we all work together. Ignorance breeds fear and fear breeds hatred--we must break the cycle!”

Kristin F. Jones, Environmental Studies, says  
“Acknowledgement of ‘what is,’ is the very least that I can offer in regards to the unconscionable imbalances and privileges that *are not extended* to so many in this country based merely on skin color and birth origin--as the dominant cultural narrative continues to play and marginalize, and hate, and oppress. I must oblige myself here to join in with you, in whatever action is deemed appropriate to get the attention of those who would benefit from listening in our academic arenas, in reference to this hatred, this act of cowardice, and this PROBLEM. That which does not confront the system becomes its instrument.”

Maxine Ewankow, Environmental Studies, says  
“I, too, am aggrieved. When I hear about things happening like what has recently happened at Columbia, I am reminded of the words of a song I’ve known since my childhood: ‘They have to be taught to hate and fear. They have to be taught year after year. It has to be drummed in their dear little ears. They have to be carefully taught.’ Sadly there is an awful lot of UN-teaching / RE-teaching that needs to be done. Please add me to the many voices that offer their support to Dr. Constantine and to the many voices that CANNOT/WILL NOT CONDONE hateful behavior.”

Often, exemplary people make the error in reasoning that overt acts of racism do not happen any more in our society. When a racist incident does occur, they argue that it’s the work of a few crazy persons or that anyone can become a victim of hate by random chance. On the other hand, while recent noose-hanging incidents around the nation remind us that overt racism is alive and well, let us not overlook subtle racism and unconscious racial microaggressions that racial and ethnic minorities, women, and those less privileged experience daily, as evidenced by the research of Drs. Madonna Constantine, Derald Wing Sue, and their doctoral students in Teachers College. Those who are victims of a vicious act of racism or an accumulation of racial microragression can suffer trauma reactions, vulnerability, anger, humiliation, depression, and a general decline in well-being.

To prevent the countless adverse effects of racism, let’s channel our advocacy to empathize with and empower those who have suffered; appeal to systems of power, such as our professional associations, our college presidents, and our faculty senate; and create a dialog among ourselves and in our classes and in our clinical training. Let us in full strength attend, in support of Dr. Constantine, the upcoming Teachers College Winter Roundtable on Cultural Psychology and Education, where we wish to participate in developing racial justice agendas in collaboration with other attendees and groups. These are the purposes of this petition.

In Solidarity with Dr. Constantine 3

By saying what we feel, doing what we can do nearby, and reaching out further away as and when we can is the right way for Clinical Psychology's Support Group for Ethnic and Racial Diversity to try to make a difference at Antioch University New England. We think and act globally and locally. When we stand together in peace and justice, with Dr. Madonna Constantine and the faculty, students, and staff of the counseling psychology program of Teachers College, Columbia University, we make a difference. When we, people of different races, ethnicities, cultures, religions, and languages connect with each other, we hope to reduce stereotypes, prevent prejudice, and eliminate racism. We pledge to build cross-cultural bridges of respect to reach one another and all people.

We call everyone to join us in supporting Dr. Constantine and condemning all acts of racism.

*Gargi Roysircar*

Gargi Roysircar, Ph.D.  
Chair, Support Group for Ethnic and Racial Diversity (SERD)  
Director, Multicultural Center for Research and Practice  
Professor of Clinical Psychology  
Department of Clinical Psychology  
Antioch University New England  
40 Avon Street  
Keene, NH 03431

Department of Clinical Psychology Students

SERD Members:

*Brian Donatello*  
*[Signature]*  
*Wendy [unclear]*  
*May Quinn*  
*Joseph [unclear]*  
*Michael [unclear]*

*Francis [unclear]* *Emily [unclear]*  
*Cory [unclear]* *Laura Gillis*  
*[unclear]* *Shuba Thomas*  
*[unclear]* *[unclear]*  
*[unclear]*

Friends of SERD:

*Steve Chase, Director Environmental Advocacy & Organizing Program*

*[Signature] ES CANDIDATES*

*Liz Allyn dept. of clinical psychology*

*Patricia J. Marshall*

*[Signature] Research Librarian*

*Victor [unclear] - clinical psych Faculty*

*Richard B. Bumer - student D/MT*

*Phyllis K. Jeswald, faculty, DMT/AP*

*[Signature] clinical psych*

*Myra [unclear] ES/STAFF*

*[Signature] 4th year clinical psych student*

*Carl Garrison*

*[Signature] clinical psych*

*[Signature]*

Friends of SERD continued:

Shawna Bels

David Carmona

Ef Olin

Donna L. Mellen

Dept of Organization & Mgt

Matthew Stevens

Sean Wiley, Assistant Director of

Communications

Roland Russell

Patricia Marshall

Richard Brunner

Maxine Ewankow

Martha Dunn

Carlotha J. Willis, Prof., Applied Psychology

Jake Austin

Jean Amarel, Reference Librarian

Bruce P... Director of Web Svs

Susan Boropulos

10-15-07

10-16-07

Jane E. Hamill, Receptionist / Switchboard

John [Signature]

Kimberly A. [Signature], Assoc. Faculty

Patty Kershner, FAO

Shoshana Fagen

[Signature]

[Signature]

Emily Graesser

Afsahn Afsahi

Cynthia Feiker

[Signature]

Maura Cole

[Signature]

Susan Bheller

[Signature]

[Signature]

[Signature]

Kathleen Proctor Associate Chair of Clinical Psychology

Friends of SERD continued:

10/17/2007

Merad C. Quesada, M.A.  
Env. Studies Ph.D. Candidate  
Victoria Rubino

*[Handwritten signature]*

10/19/2007

Lora B. *[Handwritten signature]* ADMISSIONS

Edward Tunny  
Professor Emeritus

Colin W. Smith  
Professor, Clinical Psychology

Barbara S. Birk-Paine Ph.D.

10/18/07

Suzanne Koulalas

Ana Staves, Ph.D.

Catherine J. Peterson

[Signature]  
 Vicki Raycraft  
 Kim Chippin  
 Patrice Schayong  
 Beth A Radefeld  
 Carol A Hensler  
 Courtney Lett  
 Mrs [Signature]  
 [Signature]  
 Mrs Budan  
 Bonnie Holpelt  
 Mrs [Signature]  
 Sarah [Signature]  
 George Corrette  
 Ananda Montox  
 Ellen Hayes  
 Valorie Judmont  
 Holly [Signature]  
 Alessandra [Signature]  
 Carla [Signature]  
 Salina J. Johnson  
 Chad [Signature]

[Signature]  
 Stephen Decker  
 [Signature]  
 [Signature]  
 Paul [Signature]  
 Kathleen Jones  
 [Signature]  
 [Signature]  
 Joseph [Signature]  
 J. P. [Signature]  
 Bruce MacNeil  
 Ann [Signature]  
 [Signature]  
 [Signature]  
 Glenn Caldwell  
 Carolyn Muelly  
 Glikin  
 [Signature]  
 Linda Malik  
 Christen [Signature]  
 JASON QUILTER  
 Muzzy [Signature]

*[Handwritten signature]*

Mar 11  
M. J. Atkinson

Nathaniel Horn

Molly John

Beth Mesene

Andrew MacBlane

*[Handwritten signature]*

A. Abrash Walton

*[Handwritten signature]*

Tabrielle Abada Mor

Pete Sutton

Kenneth Morgan

*[Handwritten signature]*

Molly Murders

Megan McLean

*[Handwritten signature]*

John John - Andrew Cunningham

Shirley Co

Kenneth Zappier

Alissa Murfit

*[Handwritten signature]*

James Lee

Tanya Pilon

*[Handwritten signature]* PhD

*[Handwritten signature]*