

The Dream is Dead

In his most famous address, the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Junior proclaimed of a future where his children would "not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character". Today in modern universities, King's children would not be able to experience this dream. Unfortunately, modern academia is moving further away from this promise by promoting critical race theory and intersectionality, treating people differently based on their race and other immutable characteristics. Unless universities make a radical reversal in policy, King's dream will remain dead.

Critical race theory, intersectionality, and a host of other left-wing ideologies have gained traction in academic circles. While these theories have been touted as ways to combat racism and promote social justice, they have had the direct consequence of dividing people along racial lines rather than uniting them. Critical race theory asserts that racism is an inherent and pervasive feature of society and that the dominant White culture perpetuates it. This theory argues that racial inequality results from the social, economic, and political systems created to benefit White people and that these systems need to be dismantled to achieve true equality. This ideology does a disservice to all university students, no matter if they are Black, White, or something else. The illiberal theory of intersectionality only compounds the divisiveness seen today. Intersectionality asserts that individuals are only defined by their immutable identity categories, such as race, gender, and sexuality, and that these categories interact and intersect in the "Oppression Olympics". Intersectionality posits that these identities are not simply additive but interdependent, meaning they cannot be understood in isolation.

These theories have had the consequence of promoting divisive tribalism and identity politics rather than promoting unity and true equality. These theories have promoted

discriminatory practices such as racial quotas, affirmative action policies, and other forms of discrimination antithetical to the principles of meritocracy, equality, and individualism.

Furthermore, these theories have created a climate of intolerance and censorship on college campuses, where certain views may be deemed "problematic" or "offensive" based solely on the speaker's identity or their message. In the name of promoting diversity and inclusion, academic institutions have squashed intellectual diversity and excluded students, professors, and speakers who disagree with the academic establishment. These institutions have silenced dissenting voices and stifled the intellectual debate, creating an echo chamber where only particular permitted perspectives can be heard.

If Dr. Martin Luther King Junior were around today, I believe he would be shocked. His promise and hope for a nondiscriminatory colorblind America have been shattered by those who claim his legacy. Nowhere are the intolerant leftist ideas of race more prevalent than in academia. Modern universities have recently structured themselves around discriminatory policies and departments. The institutions single out specific racial, ethnic, and sexual groups for greater academic assistance leaving others in the cold. The prejudiced policies and views of modern academic institutions are the direct antithesis of the mountaintop dream that King proclaimed.

Modern academia is undoubtedly moving further away from the dream of Martin Luther King Jr. by promoting discriminatory ideas and practice through the lenses of critical race theory and intersectionality. While these theories may have been well-intentioned, they have divided along identity lines and promoted a culture of victimhood, entitlement, and resentment. If we are to truly achieve the mountaintop that Martin Luther King Jr. envisioned, we must reject these divisive theories and work to promote true equality and meritocracy, focusing instead on Texas

A&M core values, such as mutual respect and selfless service for all.