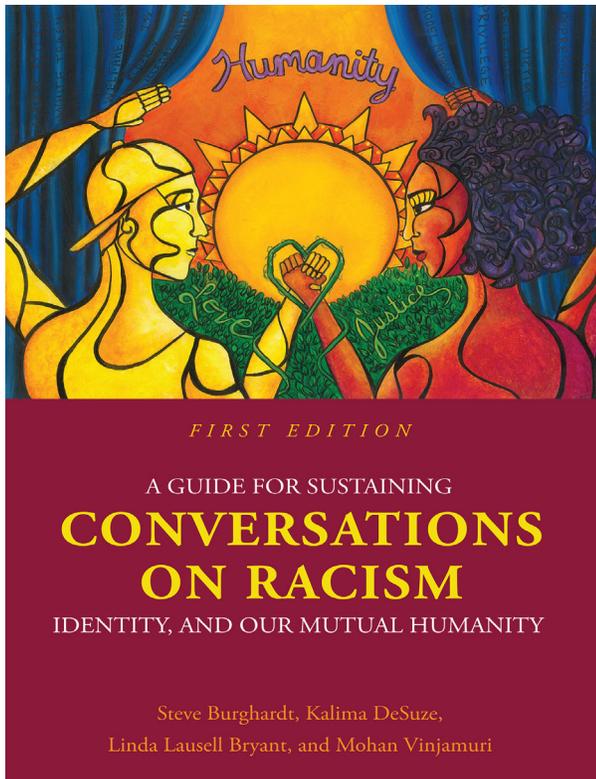
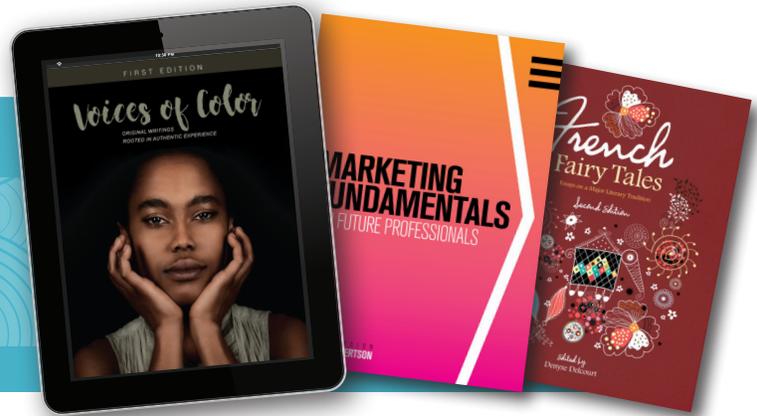


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A timely contribution, this book should be on the shelves of student affairs practitioners. It challenges us to re-envision how we model constructive dialogue on college campuses. A must read for anyone interested in fostering critical understanding across difference in educational settings.

**Valerie De Cruz, Director of the Greenfield Intercultural Center, University of Pennsylvania**

*A Guide for Sustaining Conversations on Racism, Identity, and our Mutual Humanity* is a hands-on guide for teachers, students, and agency professionals seeking to respond skillfully and sensitively to the often daunting challenges of classrooms, as students demand both answers and accountability concerning issues of race, power, privilege, and oppression and the emotional responses they provoke.

The guide includes suggestions to implement before entering the classroom, so that the necessary personal, community, and institutional infrastructure can support authentic, sustainable conversations. It discusses how educators can respond appropriately in the classroom to the hot-button issues of the day. There are also lessons for critical pedagogy and management that help educators reimagine classrooms and learn to create mutually supportive learning environments.

Written by four experienced anti-racist educators and practitioners, the book takes a direct, compassionate approach designed to diminish dogma and fear. By examining how socially different people respond to the same difficult questions, *A Guide for Sustaining Conversations on Racism, Identity, and our Mutual Humanity* creates a rich set of options for readers to use in their own classrooms, agencies, and field placements.

**Steve Burghardt, M.S.W., Ph.D.**, is a professor of social work at Hunter College-CUNY. He is a noted author and an eight-time teaching award winner.

**Kalima DeSuze, L.M.S.W.**, is an adjunct professor at Hunter College-CUNY, Smith College, and Columbia Schools of Social Work. She serves as an assistant director of the Hunter College-CUNY Field Education Department.

**Linda Lausell Bryant, M.S.W., Ph.D.**, has worked as the executive director of a nonprofit youth agency and is now the executive-in-residence and clinical assistant professor of social work at New York University.

**Mohan Vinjamuri, L.M.S.W., Ph.D.**, is an assistant professor of social work at Lehman College-CUNY where he teaches courses on practice, research, and social work with LGBTQ communities.

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## A Letter from the Authors:

*A Guide for Sustaining Conversations on Racism, Identity, and Our Mutual Humanity* is arriving at an auspicious moment in higher education that is crying out for answers to the questions this book addresses. This Guide takes on the blunt problems inside classrooms that aren't going away—charges of racism, a perceived lack of safety, the battles over different identities—and addresses them head on—without jargon or fear.

We authors come from different social backgrounds, identities, and opportunities—two women of color who identify as Afro-Latinx, a gay South Asian immigrant, and an older white man. What brought us together was a shared belief that most of our faculty colleagues, rather than indifferent to the charged social climates in their classrooms, were perplexed and uncertain on what exactly to do and say—wanting to move ahead, fearful that a misspoken statement could derail their classrooms, cause seemingly irreparable harm to the most vulnerable, and jeopardize their careers.

Our original idea for the Guide was therefore simple: as anti-racism educators, we'd systematically discuss how over the years we have come to handle the most difficult conversations in our classrooms. Through those conversations, we'd spell out a set of guidelines to help others handle the hotbed issues of the day.

But it became so much more. Shared with pain but not anger towards each other, this Guide provides a template for how groups of people committed to genuine learning, authentic relationship-building, and the joy in our differences can move from hurt to healing. This Guide confronts hard truths in ways that, over time, can allow everyone to share those differences and the re-discovery of our mutual humanity. From that, the journey to true learning becomes not only possible but desired for everyone in your academic community—students, faculty, and administration.

You are a critical actor in how your educational institution responds throughout this academic term to pressing social and academic issues of our time. Our publisher, as well as those with whom we have shared our work, believe *A Guide for Sustaining Conversations on Racism, Identity and Our Mutual Humanity* can play a valuable role in enhancing both classroom learning and campus life. We hope you'll agree, too.

Discounts are available for bulk sales if you feel the Guide would bring value to your institution or department.

Steve Burghardt, Kalima DeSuze, Linda Lausell Bryant, and Mohan Vinjamuri

