

## Whiteness: Implications of Anti-Racism for Social and Ecological Healing

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This project will investigate racism's impact on the relationship between white people and land. This work aims to respond to the growing call by environmental justice advocates to integrate anti-racism into environmental work and more deeply understand the connections. It also seeks to answer the question, how did the environmental crisis develop in the United States so that people of color are disproportionately burdened? Beginning with the work of Wendell Berry and bell hooks, this research directs its attention to whiteness in order to assist in healing those who most benefit from racist systems, and therefore may be apprehensive or hostile to anti-racism work, so that the challenges of environmental justice may be better addressed. It also aims to change attitudes about racism's effect on all people socially and ecologically. Berry's and hooks' are also both poets themselves, so their writings will also guide an exploration of poetry as a tool of personal and political healing in the environmental and racial justice movements.