



# Land, Food, and Freedom

**Critical Race Theory in Agricultural Disciplines**

**Dr. Treya Allen**

**Jan 21, 2022**

# Land Acknowledgement

This presentation is taking place on the original homelands of the Tohono O'odham People who have stewarded this land since time immemorial.

The practice of acknowledging the land of this sovereign Nation brings to the forefront their enduring connection to this land regardless of historical and current colonization practices. We also acknowledge that this university and all its inhabitants benefit from this land.



# Contributions of The African Diaspora

We recognize and acknowledge that the very foundation of the United States of America was built on the free and forced labor of Black people of the African Diaspora and Black people indigenous to this land.

This foundation has generational and exponential effects that continue to negatively impact Black communities today and remain uncompensated. The historical and contemporary contributions of the Black diaspora continue to shape American culture and benefit all inhabitants of this land.

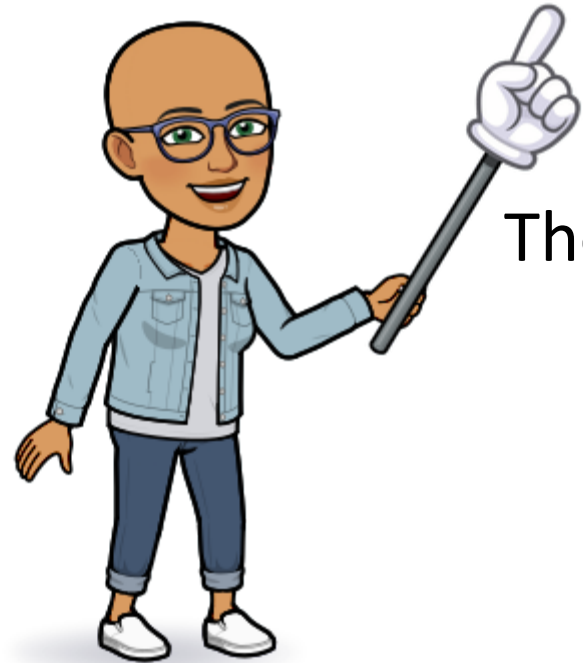


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# Breakout: The Story of Agriculture

- In your small groups, I would like for you to get together and construct a 90 second story using the following prompt:
  - What is the story of the agricultural industry?



There are no parameters other than the following:

- Feel free to be as creative as you desire
- Each story can be no longer than 90 seconds
- Prepare to share your story out (time permitting)

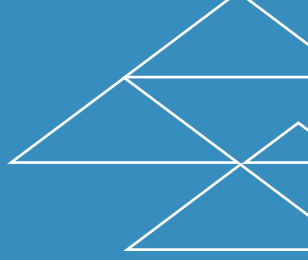
# Common words around Agriculture Storying

- Textiles
- Farming
- Food Production/systems
- Soil, land, resource exhaustion
- 5 Cs of Arizona
- Import/ Export
- Why do some (all) of these words appear in our stories?
- Who taught us these stories?
- What, if anything, is missing from our stories?

Where does **race** figure in the agricultural story?



# Where to begin, socialization...



“All members of society play a role in keeping a “dis-equal” system in place, whether the system works to their benefit or to their disadvantage. Through the socialization process, every member of society learns the attitudes, language, behaviors and skills that are necessary to function effectively in the existing society. This socialization prepares individuals to play roles of dominant or subordinate in systems of oppression (Love, 2000)”



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# What Socialization Does

- Creates Agents (dominant roles) and Targets (subordinate roles)
- Our social identities determine the roles that we will play in an unequal system
- Creates and upholds systems of oppression
- Left unchallenged, we will perpetuate an unequal system of oppression



# Defining Critical Race Theory

Because “racism is so normal , not aberrant, in American society (Delgado,1995), and because it is so enmeshed in the fabric of our social order, it appears both normal and natural to [all] people in this culture (Ladson-Billings, 1998).

CRT is a framework that works to unmask and expose racism in its various forms and permutations by using storytelling and creativity, critical critique of what we deem ‘normal’ and centering the role of race in the maintenance of oppressive systems.



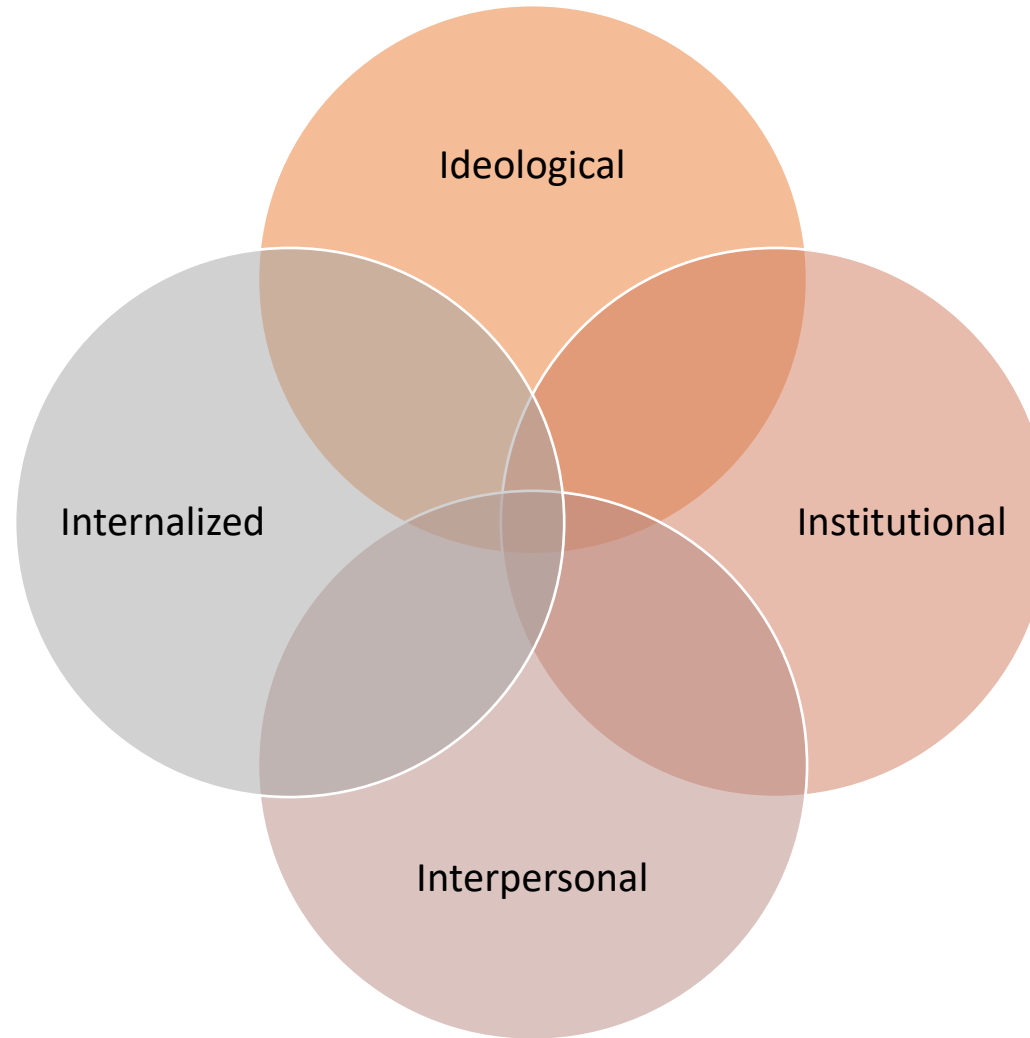


# Conceptualizing Race and Racism



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# Understanding Racism



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# Critical Race Theory in Education

- Race is a Social Construction
- Centrality of Racism
- Commitment to Social Justice
- The Importance of Experiential Knowledge
- An Interdisciplinary Perspective is necessary



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# The American Dream

The ideal by which equality of opportunity is available to any American, allowing the highest aspirations and goals to be achieved.

1619- Religious freedom and second chances

1774- American Frontier and western movement

1848- German Emigrant saw it as the ability move, think, and engage freely

1849- Instantaneous wealth through the California Gold Rush

**1931- James Truslow Adams coins the term**

1940s-50s- House, children, and a bank account

2006- The ability for a Black man to establish state and national identities



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# Whiteness As property

“The origins of property rights in the United States are rooted in racial domination. Even in the early years of the country, it was not the concept of race of alone that operated to oppress Blacks and Indians; rather, it was the interactions between conceptions of race and property which played a critical role in establishing and maintaining racial and economic subordination.”

-Cheryl I. Harris, Professor of Law  
UCLA School of Law



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# Breakout: Thinking About Social Structures

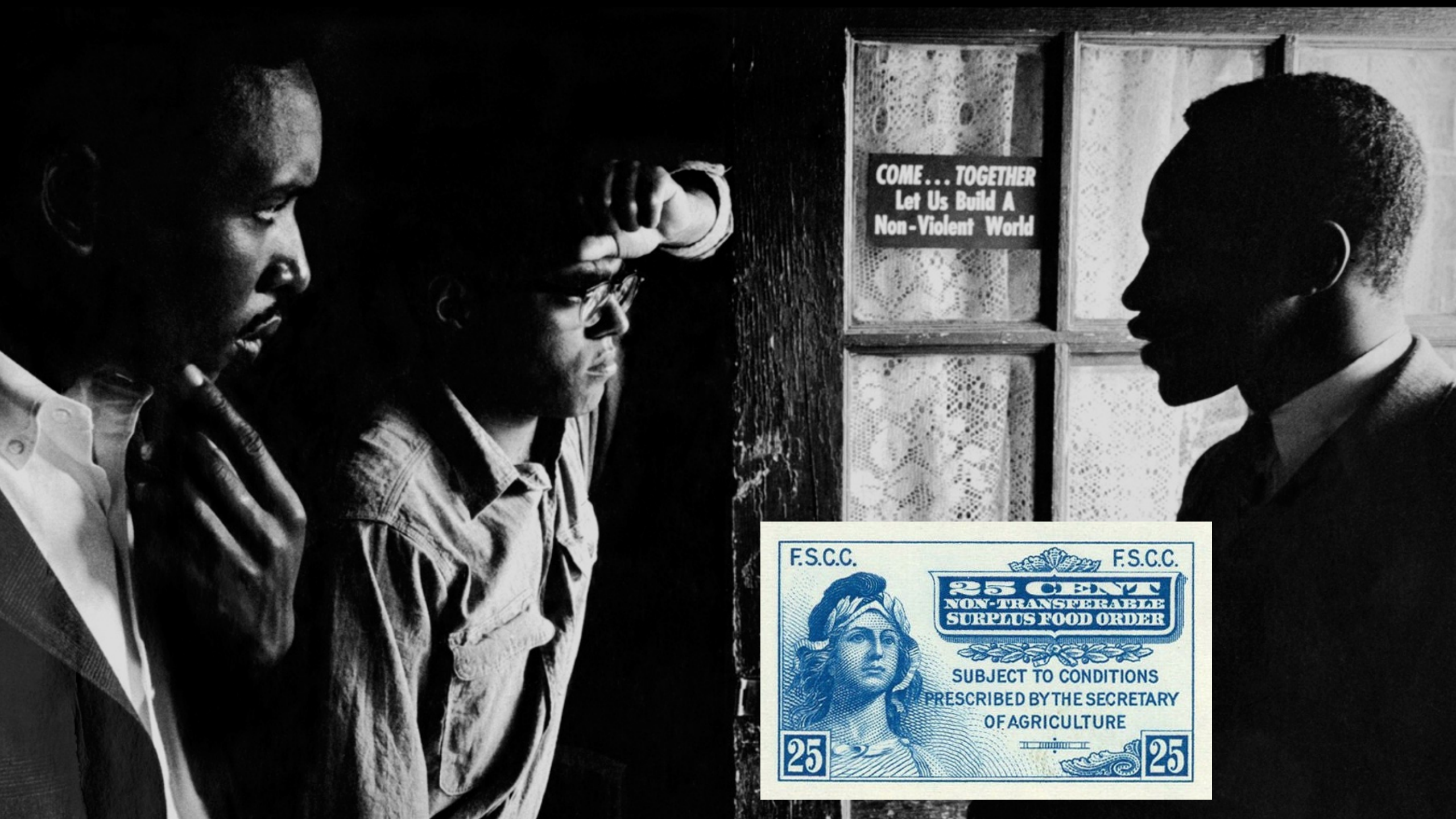
Let's think through the social structures of the Mississippi Delta Region world:

- What is the communicated accepted behavior in this experience?
- How is difference accepted in this community?
- What does this accepted behavior communicate to others?
- When does (if applicable) the Black become acceptable?









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F.S.C.C.

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SURPLUS FOOD ORDER

SUBJECT TO CONDITIONS  
PRESCRIBED BY THE SECRETARY  
OF AGRICULTURE

25

25

# Check In: Exploring Power

Lets think through the following questions:

1. Who is wielding power? What type of power?
2. Who is in power?
3. What power does the community have?
4. Who is complicit in this scenario?



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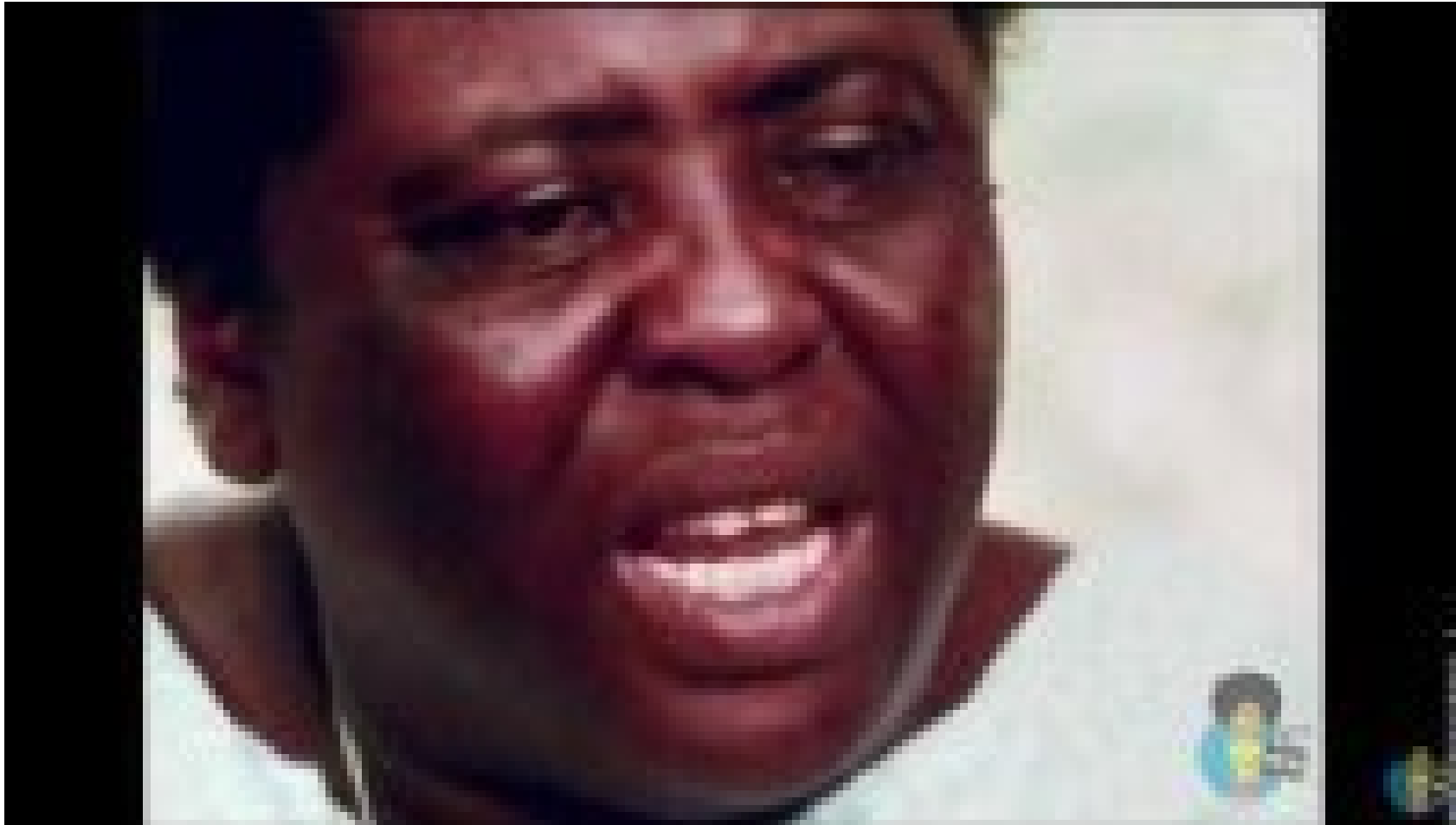
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# Food Power in Mississippi



# The Need for New A More Complex Vision

Without a critical reflection, analysis, and questioning we will continue to utilize

- Revisionist history narratives
- Deficit based frameworks
- Deficit based language
- Deceptively simple solutions that erase the history and present functioning of agriculture in this country and in the classroom



# Diversifying the Story of Agriculture

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# The Black Feminist Project



## UA Cannabis Certificate Program teaches skills for legal marijuana industry

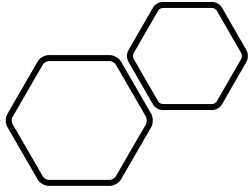




# War on Drugs Policy

“ The Nixon campaign in 1968, and the Nixon White House after that, had two enemies: the antiwar left and Black people. You understand what I’m saying? We knew we couldn’t make it illegal to be either against the war or black... But by getting the public to associate the hippies with marijuana and Blacks with heroin, and then criminalizing both heavily, we could disrupt those communities... We could arrest their leaders, raid their homes, break up their meetings, and vilify them night after night on the evening news. Did we know that we were lying about the drugs? Of course we did.”

- John Ehrlichman, Chief Domestic Advisor to Richard Nixon

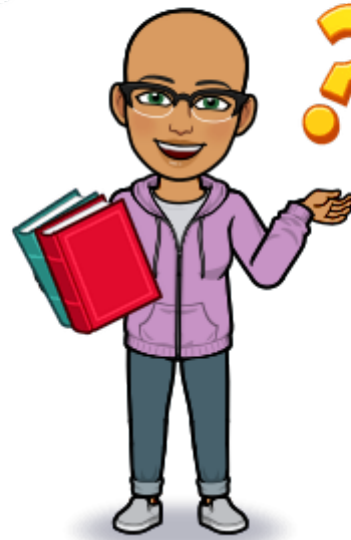


## Diversifying the Story of Agriculture Examples

- Larry Itliong, United Farmworkers and Environmental/ Food Activism
- Fast Fashion and Textile Landfills
- Soil and Water Rights of Sovereign Nations
- Veganism, Cashews, and 24/7 off season demand
- Diabetes and the Mississippi Delta
- Coca Cola, Mexico, and Diabetes



Any Questions?



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