

*EDI Reading Newsletter, 30 March 2021*

*Owing to the Easter holiday, our next informal coffee discussion will take place on **12 April, at 2.00pm** on Teams.*

*The newsletter project is a contribution toward improving our collective EDI (Equality, Diversity and Inclusion) literacy. We hope that everyone takes a few minutes to engage with the shared writing. We welcome any and all contributions or recommendations for readings! Please send any contributions or suggestions to [michael.petersen@roe.ac.uk](mailto:michael.petersen@roe.ac.uk).*

Writer: Ben Giblin

What we're watching this fortnight: “Decolonising the Science Curriculum: Potential actions & a case study” - seminar by Neil Williams.

[https://media.ed.ac.uk/media/t/1\\_1m837pkh](https://media.ed.ac.uk/media/t/1_1m837pkh)

Why we're watching it: Initiatives to decolonising education have gained a lot of attention in the last few years, but many science academics are unsure about how these relate to their field or how to implement them in practice. In this seminar, chemistry lecturer Dr Neil Williams gives a great introduction to decolonisation and explains how he has incorporated it in his own teaching.

Decolonisation refers to the process of identifying how knowledge and the ways it is taught have been shaped by white European colonialism, and then working to make this knowledge more inclusive and accessible to people of colour. This involves reconsiderations of who is teaching, the subject matter of the course, and ensuring all students can see themselves and their backgrounds reflected in the course.

*When done well*, this practice can help to tackle racial inequalities in education, such as the attainment gaps which exist between racial groups. In this seminar, Dr Williams explains how moving away from a lecture-based style of teaching, towards project- and problem-based learning, in which students had more input on the curriculum, helped to reduce such attainment gaps on his course.

What you should watch: (~15 minutes): 26:33 - 42:22 of Neil's talk, where he explains how he implemented decolonisation ideas in his teaching and the impact it had. (in 1 hour): the whole seminar.

Discussion question: How can we implement decolonisation in our physics teaching here in Edinburgh?

*Our next EDI programming meeting is schedule for **19 April at 2.00pm** on Teams. Please email [michael.petersen@roe.ac.uk](mailto:michael.petersen@roe.ac.uk) if you would like to be added to the email reminder list.*