

Racism in Photography

...

a starting point for research and discussion

Color film was built for white people. Here's what it did to dark skin.

<https://www.shutterstock.com/blog/shirley-card-racial-photographic-bias>

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/04/25/lens/sarah-lewis-racial-bias-photography.html>

<https://www.npr.org/sections/codeswitch/2014/04/16/303721251/light-and-dark-the-racial-biases-that-remain-in-photography>



First black model on Vogue cover August 1974

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/2020/06/16/i-was-first-black-model-cover-vogue-fashion-industry-still-isnt-fixing-its-racism/>

Discussion: why did it take so long.
Vogue first started cover models in 1938.



Why did it take until 2018 for a Vogue cover, and 2020 for a Vanity Fair cover, to be shot by a Black photographer?

Last month it was reported that 23-year-old Tyler Mitchell would become the first black photographer to shoot the cover of Vogue in the iconic fashion magazine's 125-year history, thanks to him being hand-picked by Beyonce for the job.

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/soniathompson/2018/08/16/this-is-why-it-took-vogue-126-years-to-hire-a-black-photographer-to-shoot-a-cover/?sh=21a457d13924>

<https://www.vogue.com/article/tyler-mitchell-beyonce-photographer-vogue-september-issue>

<https://www.theguardian.com/artanddesign/2020/jul/17/dario-calmese-vanity-fair-first-black-cover-photographer>

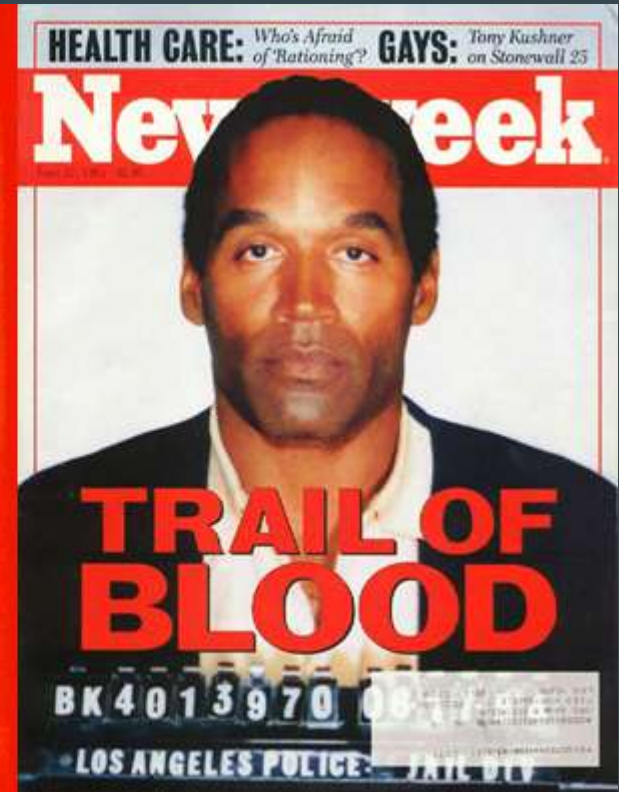
Discussion about systemic racism and how it affected this situation



Photoshopping OJs mugshots

<http://www.alteredimagesbdc.org/oj-simpson>

<https://www.nytimes.com/1994/06/25/us/time-responds-to-criticism-over-simpson-cover.html>



Lightening skin

<https://atlantablackstar.com/2015/02/19/8-cases-where-a-black-celebrity-was-whitewashed-for-a-magazine-cover-or-ad-campaign/>



Cultural Appropriation



Colonialism and representation of Sub-Saharan Africans and other peoples

https://www.usfca.edu/sites/default/files/arts_and_sciences/international_studies/photography_colonialism_and_racism_university_of_san_francisco_usf.pdf

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/02/06/magazine/when-the-camera-was-a-weapon-of-imperialism-and-when-it-still-is.html>

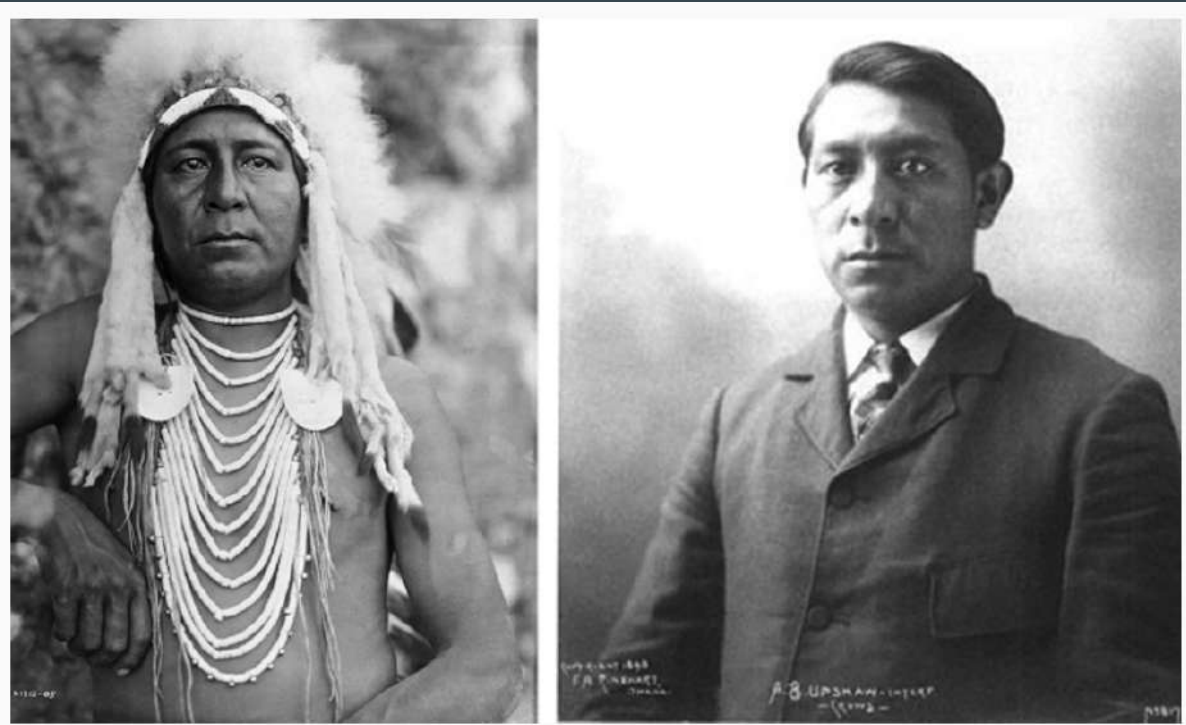


The full caption reads: 'Christmas photograph of staff at the African Oil Nuts Company and Miller Brothers. Three rows of bare-chested African workers pose for the camera, each man's chest painted with a letter spell out '1923, Badagry, Merry Xmas'. Four Europeans dressed in white sit on a makeshift bench up front beside three African children, possibly domestic servants. Badagry, Nigeria, circa 1923 Badagry, Lagos, Nigeria, Western Africa, Africa'. (Bristol Archives)

Representation of Native Americans

<https://clements.umich.edu/issues-regarding-19th-century-native-american-photographs/>

<https://www.photoethics.org/content/2021/2/24/edward-curtis-and-the-north-american-indian-an-exploration-of-truth-and-objectivity>



Upshaw - Apsaroke, 1905, by Edward Curtis (Left) and Portrait of Alexander B. Upshaw, 1898, by Frank Rinehart (Right)

What should be done with the Zealy Daguerreotypes?

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/09/29/books/to-make-their-own-way-in-world-zealy-daguerreotypes.html>

<https://www.bostonglobe.com/2020/12/30/arts/how-camera-confronted-slavery-still-does/>

http://mirrorofrace.org/gallery/profile.php?photo_id=25&factual

<https://petapixel.com/2021/02/24/who-should-own-photos-of-slaves/>



Whatever this is

<https://petapixel.com/2020/06/20/snapchat-sorry-for-juneteenth-filter-that-had-users-smile-to-break-chains/>



WHOOP1
@whoopthis

aaaand this is what happens when you don't have any black people on the product design team. As a Snap alumni, this is extremely embarrassing. It doesn't have to be this hard - how about an AR experience to inform your 229 million daily active users what Juneteenth is?

@Snapchat

Snapchat Sorry for Juneteenth Filter That Had Users 'Smile' to Break Chains

JUN 20, 2020

MICHAEL ZHANG

Share 21

Tweet

9 COMMENTS



Representation of Black Americans

<https://www.ferris.edu/HTMLS/news/jimcrow/antiblack/picaninny/homepage.htm>

<https://www.pbs.org/wnet/african-americans-many-rivers-to-cross/video/racist-images-and-messages-in-jim-crow-era/>



Video

Racist Images and Messages in Jim Crow Era



Why do westerners in Africa or Asia think it's okay to photograph other people's children?

If you wouldn't do it in your own town, why would you do it in other countries?

<https://www.newstatesman.com/science-tech/social-media/2018/11/why-do-westerners-africa-or-asia-think-it-s-okay-photograph-other>

<https://expatpanda.com/stop-using-black-brown-children-as-photo-props/>



New section about working towards dismantling racism in photography?

Tons of resources: <https://www.1854.photography/2020/06/black-lives-matter-anti-racism-resources/>

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/10Taz_wpBuQAFa_efs0PIMla7G-3LyXRVDf85AyGo-wo/edit#gid=1158803245

How to Dismantle Racism in the Wedding Photography Industry

<https://www.honeybook.com/risingtide/how-to-dismantle-racism-photography-industry>

6. Show more black + brown love

To our publisher friends in the industry who want to feature and promote more BIPOC, be intentional and transparent about what kinds of submissions you're seeking. Own up to your past failures and take responsibility for the ways you failed to represent communities and love stories of color. Publicly commit and pledge to make a permanent change. This is not a trend, so please do not treat it as such.

The most important attitude to show is EXCITEMENT about seeing more black and brown love! Use joyful, compassionate, and encouraging speech in regards to this topic. Show anticipation and ADMIRATION by using loving, happy, and excited adjectives to describe every BIPOC couple you see.



Visualizing Racism

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/magazine/2019/11/25/visualizing-racism-photo-essay/?arc404=true>



On being a black photographer

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5RM0ESyIFRw>

“A weapon against racism and poverty”

And Gordon Parks



