

ROOTED RESISTANCE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER | WINTER 2019



"DECOLONIZATION IS NOT A METAPHOR"

TUCK & YANG (2012)

We acknowledge that the Drum Circle and Railroad Square Art District is located on land that is the ancestral territory of the Apalachee Nation, the Muscogee Creek Nation, the Miccosukee Tribe of Florida, and the Seminole Tribe of Florida. We pay respect to their Elders past and present and extend that respect to their descendants and to all Indigenous people. We recognize that this land remains scarred by the histories and ongoing legacies of settler colonial violence, dispossession, and removal.

In spite of all of this and with tremendous resilience, these Indigenous nations have remained deeply connected to this territory, to their families, to their communities, and to their cultural ways of life. We recognize the ongoing relationships of care that these Indigenous Nations maintain with this land and we extend our gratitude as we live, work, and move our bodies as respectful guests upon their territory. We encourage you to learn about and amplify the contemporary work of the Indigenous nations whose land you are on and to endeavor to support Indigenous sovereignty in all the ways that you can.



OUR LOCATION CHANGE

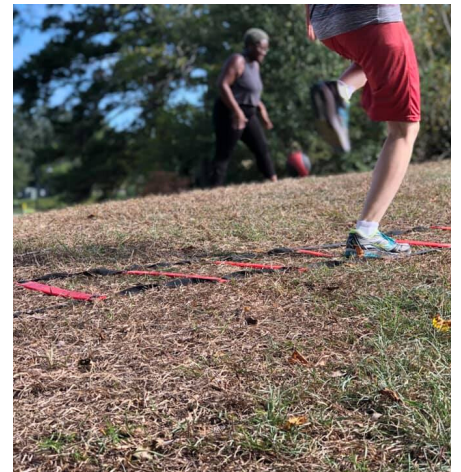
The Halfway Point (THP) is a zero waste market and a QTPOC led hub for culture and art in the Railroad Square Art District. THP's main entrance opens up to the Drum Circle. Business owners and the property manager welcomed the use of the space for RootCamps. In November we started using this location because it remains a public outdoor space and simultaneously provides a more intimate environment for us. Railroad Square Art District is a queer friendly space and that association to a place was and continues to be important.



The Drum Circle behind THP where RootCamps are located.

THE HALFWAY POINT

Sam and I met in April 2019 at a RootCamp in Cascades Park. Sam came towards the end of the workout. This particular day I changed the time of RootCamp so people could attend the closing event for Tallahassee's Pride Week. Sam would not have known that as we were not connected on social media. I asked Sam where he learned about Rooted Resistance and he said a Tallahassee sub Reddit. He went on to say that someone in town posts all of the queer happenings there. I stayed back to talk with Sam, learn about him, and of course workout. Since that day Sam has become one of my closest friends and comrades in Tallahassee. Soon after meeting I learned about Sam's dream to open up a store front, a hub for queer and trans people. This past October Sam opened up the doors to The Halfway Point a space that goes beyond a retail store. We are working to put in motion monthly social justice dialogues and remodel one of the rooms for one on one training opportunities through Rooted Resistance.





NEW HEIGHTS 2020

Starting in 2020 I will instruct a weekly functional movement class called "Rockin' with Roc" at the Tallahassee Rock Gym. The classes will be focused on body weight circuit training supplemented by free weights and lots of mobility work. The classes are open to members of the rock gym and will have a sliding scale for those who are not members. This opportunity has been made possible because Rich, the owner of TRG values the message behind the movement community we are creating for QT people.



STAY ROOTED JAR

The Stay Rooted jar is filled with affirmations, declarations, and possibilities. This was gifted to me by Moe, my womb buddy and twin sibling. We incorporate the jar at the closing of each RootCamp to bring together the heart-root-practice of what it means to move our bodies in community with one another and to part ways through centering our mindsets.





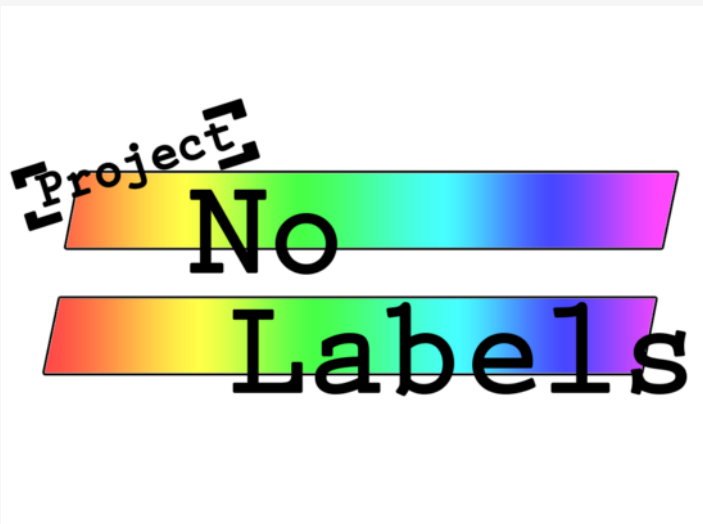
COMING BACK TO THE BAY

One of our goals this year was to have our services available again for the queer and trans community in the greater Tampa Bay area. Building relationships and meaningful partnerships require community outreach, commitment, time, and trust.

Sam (ira) Obeid our Director of Contracts and Grants has worked diligently in partnering with Project No Labels an organization in St. Petersburg, Florida to provide RootCamps for queer and trans people in the greater Tampa Bay area. As many of you may know, Rooted Resistance (born in March) and RootCamps (born in December) started in Tampa Bay in 2016. We are very excited and grateful for this opportunity. Sam continues to be dedicated to building longterm partnerships with people and organizations that align with restorative justice and healing through movement for the LGBTQ community. To learn more information about Project No Labels click the photo below.

QUOTE OF THE QUARTER

“It matters what matters we use to think other matters with; it matters what stories we tell to tell other stories with; it matters what knots knot knots, what thoughts think thoughts, what descriptions describe descriptions, what ties tie ties. It matters what stories make worlds, what worlds make stories.”-Donna J. Haraway, *Staying with the Trouble: Making Kin in the Chthulucene*



READ OF THE QUARTER



Decolonization: Indigeneity, Education & Society

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Decolonization is not a metaphor

Eve Tuck

State University of New York at New Paltz

K. Wayne Yang

University of California, San Diego

Abstract

Our goal in this article is to remind readers what is unsettling about decolonization. Decolonization brings about the repatriation of Indigenous land and life; it is not a metaphor for other things we want to do to improve our societies and schools. The easy adoption of decolonizing discourse by educational advocacy and scholarship, evidenced by the increasing number of calls to “decolonize our schools,” or use “decolonizing methods,” or, “decolonize student thinking”, turns decolonization into a metaphor. As important as their goals may be, social justice, critical methodologies, or approaches that decenter settler perspectives have objectives that may be incommensurable with decolonization. Because settler colonialism is built upon an entangled triad structure of settler-native-slave, the decolonial desires of white, non-white, immigrant, postcolonial, and oppressed people, can similarly be entangled in resettlement, reoccupation, and reinhabitation that actually further settler colonialism. The metaphorization of decolonization makes possible a set of evasions, or “settler moves to innocence”, that problematically attempt to reconcile settler guilt and complicity, and rescue settler futurity. In this article, we analyze multiple settler moves towards innocence in order to forward “an ethic of incommensurability” that recognizes what is distinct and what is sovereign for project(s) of decolonization in relation to human and civil rights based social justice projects. We also point to unsettling themes within transnational/Third World decolonizations, abolition, and critical space-place pedagogies, which challenge the coalescence of social justice endeavors, making room for more meaningful potential alliances.

Keywords: *decolonization, settler colonialism, settler moves to innocence, incommensurability, Indigenous land, decolonizing education*

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With much gratitude as we enter a new year and decade we want to thank you for your continued support.

#STAYROOTED

www.RootedResistance.com