

research

ANTI-RACIST EDUCATION

Sherene Razack

How is racism enacted, performed and constructed?

“I see my work as a study of how ordinary people come to believe that they are racially superior people. I focus on how we learn about the nation, how we learn about citizenship, how we learn about who is entitled to equal rights and how we can disrupt these ways of knowing through education.” – Sherene Razack

Sherene Razack tries to understand what happens when dominant groups encounter subordinate groups in classrooms, courtrooms and everyday life. She asks how we act in ways that perpetuate inequality and how we engage in racist practices while at the same time, believe ourselves to be good and moral people. In her work on Muslims, Sherene shows how we engage in “race thinking,” an act of denial of common humanity between white and non-white peoples. In her work she traces how we deny fundamental rights to those who we consider different or less human than we are.

In Canadian Aboriginal communities, Sherene traces how “race thinking” lead to acts of racial violence. She looks at why violence occurs so routinely against Aboriginal peoples and other racialized groups, and why violence is so easily forgiven and forgotten in law and society. She views violence as an identity-making practice that enables those in power to assert their superiority both materially and symbolically. By looking at Aboriginal women who are murdered and connecting these acts of violence to the making of Canada as a white settler society, she looks at how racial violence is also gendered.

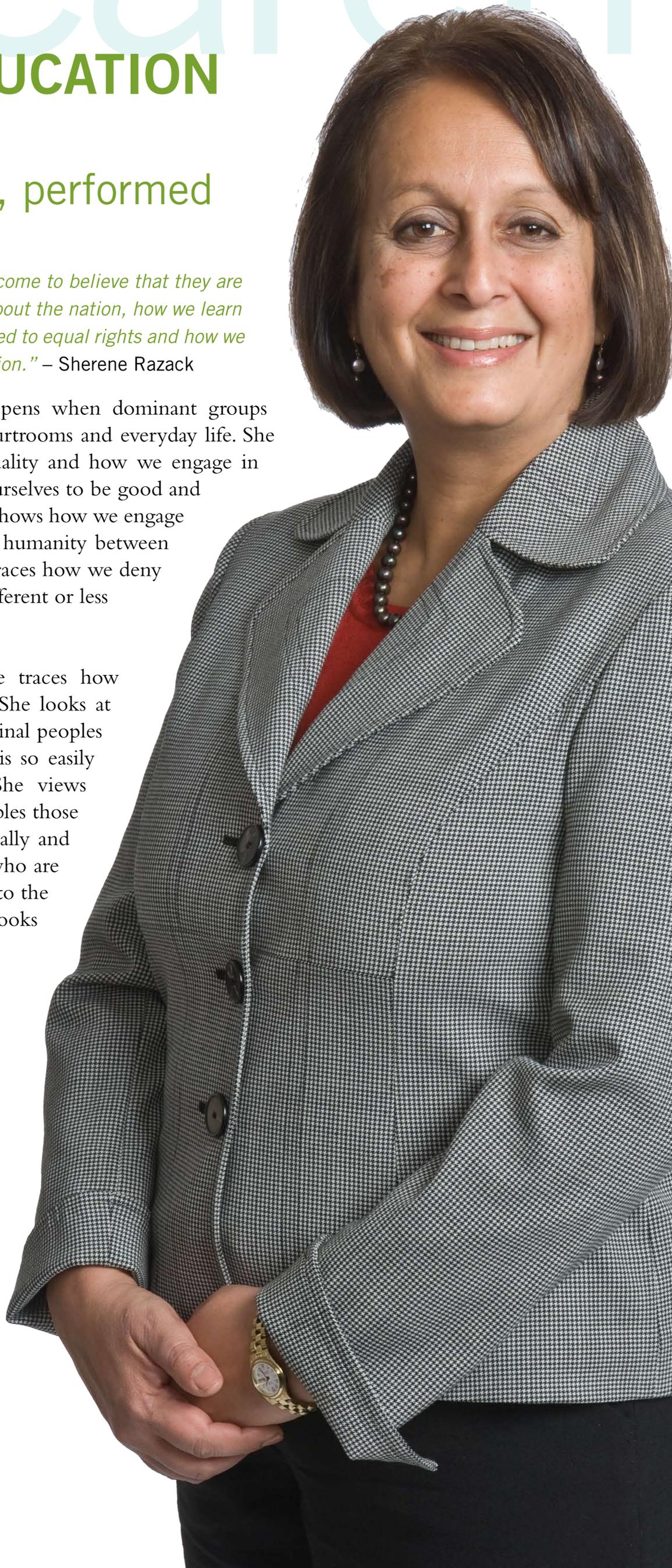
Her work pushes Canadians to think more actively about how racism and racial violence in particular are enacted, performed and constructed.

Sherene’s research on *Race and Violence against Aboriginal People* is supported by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council and by the Connaught Fund at the University of Toronto.

For more information about Sherene’s research and the impact of her work, please visit

http://www.oise.utoronto.ca/oise/About_OISE/Issues_That_Matter_in_Education.html

Sherene Razack is a professor in the department of Sociology and Equity Studies in Education.



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