
ENGAGED SCHOLAR

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6.4 x 5.4 metres
Pollsmoor Prison
Robben Island, South
Africa



South Africa

A transformational experience that allowed me to reflect and think about my whole self in ways in which I had not begun to as young adult.

How do I contribute my voice and actions to
these invisible and silent spaces?



I am talking about societies drained of their essence,
cultures trampled underfoot, institutions undermined,
lands confiscated, religions smashed, magnificent
artistic creations destroyed, extraordinary possibilities
wiped out.

-- *Aime Cesaire*



Engagement with greater
purpose and representation
of black and brown youth





Community development and civic engagement

Disrupting the idea of who can
and is co-creating knowledge,
resources, and capacity.

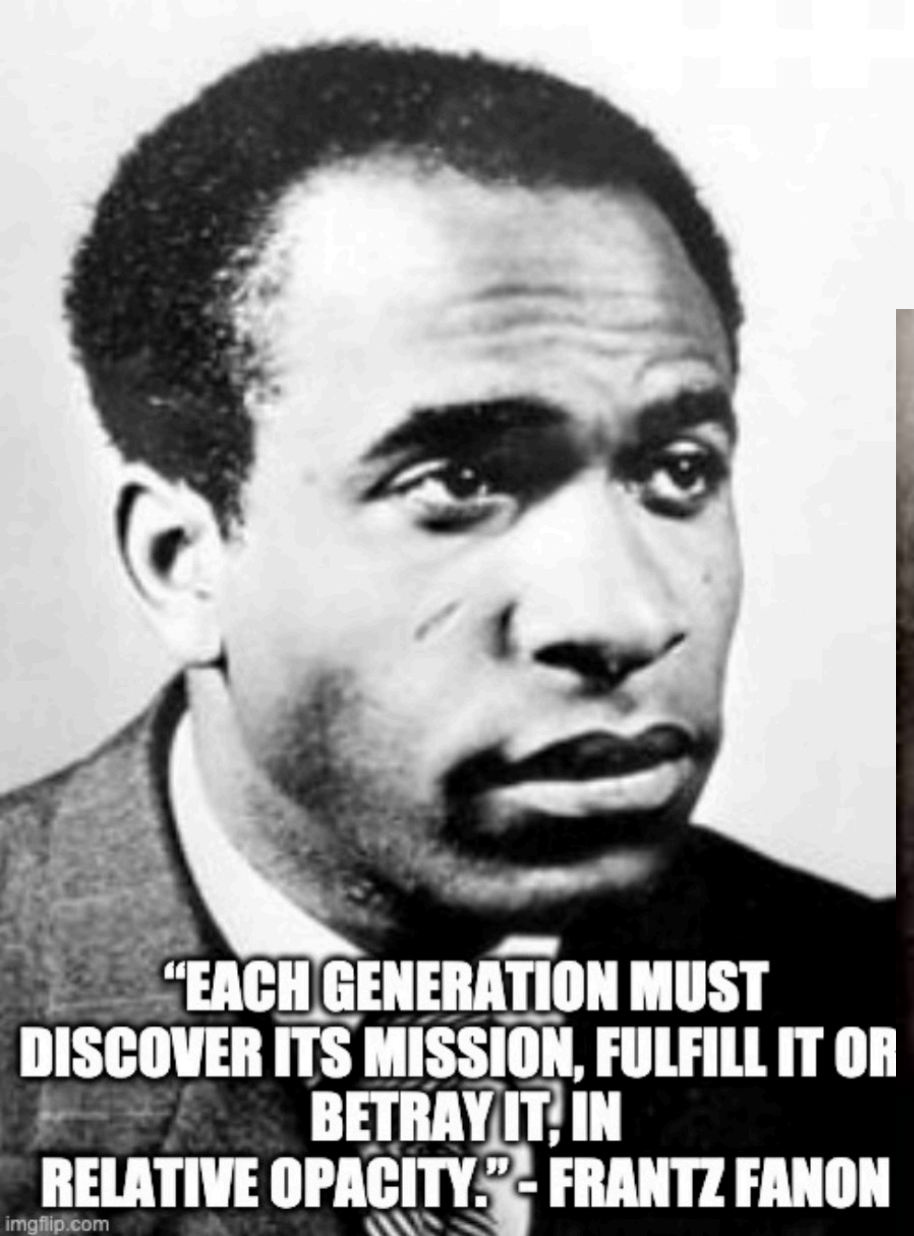




Re-centering and centering conversations



- Acknowledging legacies and histories
- Creating and enforcing inclusive practices and culture



The historical legacy relates to the question of how history matters in the contemporary world and the extent to which it can explain politics, the economy, culture and social attitudes at the current tie (Biko, Aime, Fanon)



- Naming “it” and showing up
- Taking personal responsibility for your work
- Being intentional with the inclusion of BIPOC voices and perspectives

Acknowledging the historical contributions of Black Youth's civic engagement in society

Nicole Webster 

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[Get It ! at Penn State](#)

 SECTIONS

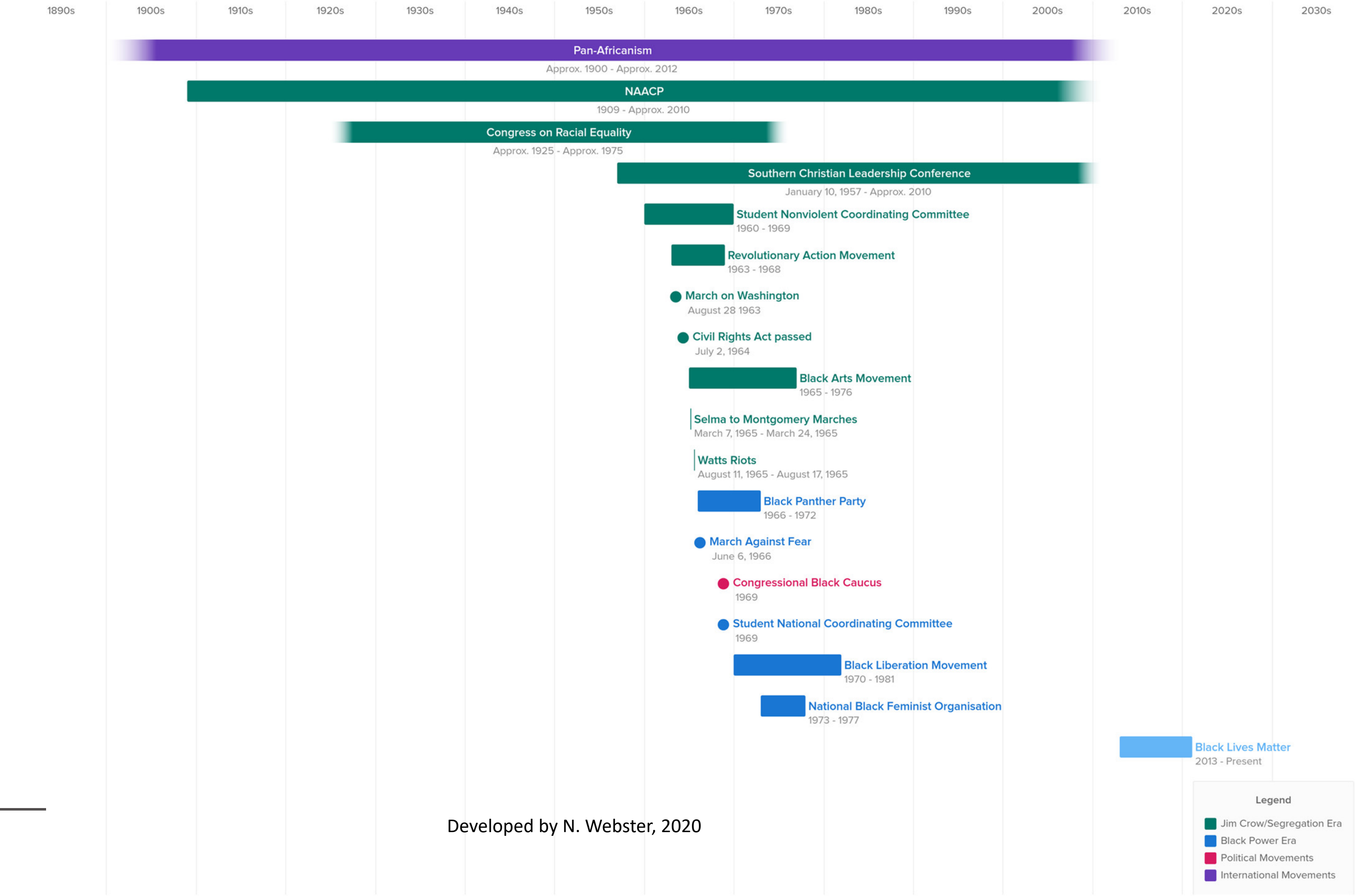
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Abstract

Historical contributions of Black youth voices and actions are overlooked from many of the narratives of youth civic engagement (YCE) literature. Specifically, the histories and stories of African American youth in the United States and Black Caribbean youth in the Anglophone Caribbean. The shared socio and political obstacles these particular groups have encountered throughout history shaped similar paths for their involvement in civic society to address many of these social and racial injustices. The article's premise centers on the need for the YCE literature to acknowledge the historical civic contributions African American and Black Caribbean youth have made throughout history. Fundamental historical civic movements that were designed, developed, and supported by Black youth set the tone of Black youth's civic engagement throughout history. These were shaped and contextualized by three specific macrosystem influences (political suppression, institutional racism, and cultural oppression). When YCE scholars begin to make greater meaning of the foundations and critical work developed by Black youth civic activists, a more comprehensive field emerges. With the acknowledgment and inclusion of civic contributions created and implemented during historical eras, more profound meaning is gained of civic engagement among communities and people who have generally been disenfranchised. Coming to terms with their civic legacies developed from racial injustices provides a more comprehensive depiction of civic engagement as a field and body of literature.

1 INTRODUCTION

Following the recent murders of Black men and women in America at the hands of police [2020](#), the Black Lives Matter movement shifted to the forefront of the



Developed by N. Webster, 2020



Engage. Reflect. Act.

- Naming “it” and showing up
 - Stop glossing over the curriculum that makes you feel uncomfortable
 - Include the scholarship of BIPOC scholars
 - Do not be afraid to have difficult yet necessary conversations regarding race/diversity/inclusion/belonging
-



Engage. Reflect. Act.

Take personal responsibility

- Being intentional with your words and actions
 - Be an ally and advocate for your BIPOC students and colleagues when others will not
 - Ask what is needed or appropriate when you do know (be prepared to grow and learn)
-



Engage. Reflect. Act.

- Lift up and support the scholarship and accomplishments of BIPOC scholars- even when others will not
 - Shift your practices to be inclusive and actively work against white supremacy culture and non-supportive/non-inclusive cultures in general
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