

## **THE EMBODIED POLITICS OF PAIN IN US ANTI-RACISM**

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### **Abstract**

Scholarship in geography has underscored the material importance of emotions to our understanding of space and society. However, the dimension of emotion in politics, particularly anti-racist politics, has not been adequately explored. The ideas of race and racism underlying anti-racist training and activism promote tears and anger—a politics of pain. Anti-racism training elicits sadness and contrition as a means to bring white people to cognizance of privilege. If pain drives inter-racial, anti-racist practice, participation will be more difficult. Strategies adequate to the task of confronting manifold racisms require more than tears and guilt. Anti-racist politics could be embodied through other emotions. Though not a comparison with Australian race politics, the paper draws on Elspeth Probyn's work, among other antipodean scholars, to suggest alternatives.

Keywords: emotion, anti-racism, race