

## Racial Justice Lunch and Learn Meetings

**Deconstructing White Privilege with Dr. Robin DeAngelo**, academic of whiteness studies, lecturer, and author of the bestseller, *White Fragility*

**Link:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h7mzj0cVL0Q&t=840s> [March 20, 2018 (20 mins.)]

DiAngelo describes the “good-bad binary” of racism that whites in this country have been raised with and that prevents them from reflecting upon and addressing the privilege that being white has in a world in which white is viewed as superior. The “good-bad binary” says to be racist is to be bad, uneducated, even Southern, while to be “not racist” is to be educated and enlightened; in this good-bad binary, there is nothing more to be learned by examining one’s own racial identity as white and the privilege attached to that. DiAngelo pushes back on the good-bad binary saying racism is at the foundation of American institutions—and like it or not—racism inherently benefits people of Caucasian descent. White people are not immune to racism, and it affects the way they interpret and experience the world. DiAngelo unpacks that white privilege doesn’t mean an individual has never experienced discrimination or hardship, but rather that those specific hardships are not the result of race. White Supremacy or the internalized superiority of whiteness affects whites’ view of the world because—even though they may not have wished for it—it is in the culture 24-7. DiAngelo outlines the first “antidote” step to racism as acknowledging that it exists. The next step is for white people to learn how to listen to the lived experiences of people who are not white.