

Dr. Lori Patton Davis

Professor, College of Education and Human Ecology, The Ohio State University

January 31, 2024

[5:00 pm] Dr. Pam Luster (@DrPamLuster)

We're back for another #EquityChat sponsored by @CollegeFutures w/your hosts @lamkeithcurry @DrTammeil & @DrPamLuster. This week, we're @LoriPattonDavis, Professor College of Education and Human Ecology @OhioState. Welcome Dr. Patton Davis!

[LoriTheeBuckeye @LoriPattonDavis](#)

Excited to join you!

[Dr Pamela Luster #EquityAvengers #RealCollegePrez @DrPamLuster](#)

We are so honored to share the [#equitea](#) with you!

[5:05 pm] Dr. Tammeil Gilkerson (@DrTammeil)

Q1 @LoriPattonDavis. As you engage in equity-focused work, what is your walk-up song or anthem?
@DrPamLuster @lamkeithcurry @CollegeFutures #EquityChat #EquityAvengers

[LoriTheeBuckeye @LoriPattonDavis](#)

Too many to name! [@Beyonce](#) songs hit every time for me, especially "Move" "Formation" & "Apushi*t." Listen closely as she always gives a nod to her girls. When I do equity work, it's never alone and always situated in community, especially alongside Black women. [#EquityChat](#)

[5:11 pm] Dr. Keith Curry (@lamkeithcurry)

Q2 @LoriPattonDavis. You are one of the most highly respected, accomplished, and influential scholars in #highered. Was there a defining moment or experience that catalyzed your journey to engage in this work?
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[LoriTheeBuckeye @LoriPattonDavis](#)

(1/5)Engaging in equity-driven work is honestly a part of who I am. Growing up in East St. Louis, IL was a defining experience because I had wonderful family and church networks.

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(2/5) I experienced great teachers and educators who helped me understand persistent inequities and how it affected our predominantly Black community in terms of schooling, employment, and healthcare.

[LoriTheeBuckeye @LoriPattonDavis](#)

(3/5) My sista-scholars and I discuss this in Dear Mr. Kozol... Four African American Women Scholars and the Re-Authoring of Savage Inequalities - <https://t.co/9bPGSC0lcc>

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(4/5) A second moment was learning Black feminist theory and critical race theory which cultivated my ability to articulate inequities and contribute to dismantling them.

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(5/5) One example is Disrupting Postsecondary Prose: Toward a Critical Race Theory of Higher Education in which I theorize the role of CRT in framing the structures of inequity in HE.

<https://t.co/Etp8wcZhk>

[5:18 pm] Dr. Luster (@DrPamLuster)

Q3 @LoriPattonDavis. You've written about the concept of institution-sanctioned violence. What do we need to understand about this concept in order to advance racial equity in #highered? @DrTammeil @lamkeithcurry @CollegeFutures #EquityChat #EquityAvengers

[LoriTheeBuckeye @LoriPattonDavis](#)

(1/3) Institution-sanctioned violence is a concept I first wrote about w/[@nadreanjoku](#). We consider how postsecondary environments not only function in the interest of the state, but also how they act as co-conspirators & accomplices of the state.

[LoriTheeBuckeye @LoriPattonDavis](#)

(2/3)(2/3) In our article "Theorizing Black women's experiences with institution-sanctioned



violence: a [#BlackLivesMatter](#) imperative toward Black liberation on campus," we discuss violence by invalidation, degradation, force, control, and denial. <https://doi-org.proxy.lib.ohio-state.edu/10.1080/09518398.2019.1645908...>

[LoriTheeBuckeye @LoriPattonDavis](#)

(3/3) We offer strategies to disarm the violence. So it's important to understand institution-sanctioned violence not only as grappling with racial equity, but also the intersection of race and gender and the uniquely challenging circumstances to which Black women are subjected.

[5:25 pm] Dr. Gilkerson (@DrTammeil)

Q4 @LoriPattonDavis. How do you navigate doing this work in spaces that have a historical lineage of being harmful for Black women? What sustains you to keep moving forward? @DrPamLuster @iamkeithcurry @CollegeFutures #EquityChat #EquityAvengers

[LoriTheeBuckeye @LoriPattonDavis](#)

(1/4)The most important part of navigating these spaces is recognizing they don't define me. When I feel pulled toward the whims of the academy I conscientiously work to resist it. I love opportunities to write, research, teach, and engage in service.

[LoriTheeBuckeye @LoriPattonDavis](#)

(2/4)I'm also well aware that postsecondary institutions serve as just one space to do this work. They are not the only spaces. Another reality is most spaces beyond higher education, such as the corporate sector, also have historical lineages of violence toward Black women.

[LoriTheeBuckeye @LoriPattonDavis](#)

(3/4)What sustains me are my spiritual connections, my relationships with Black women scholars, my consistent efforts to center my family and communal relationships and ensuring I engage in rest strategies.

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(4/4)I recently read "Rest is Resistance" by [@TheNapMinistry](#). I love the reminder that rest is a "divine right." We don't need permission to rest. I can move forward & navigate toward equity AND prioritize rest. It's my right to do so and it's detached from my academic work.

[5:32 pm] Dr. Curry (@iamkeithcurry)

Q5 @LoriPattonDavis. How did the #SOScollective webinar series come about? What are other ways we can create these spaces for Black women in #highered? @DrPamLuster @DrTammeil @CollegeFutures #EquityChat #EquityAvengers

[LoriTheeBuckeye @LoriPattonDavis](#)

(1/5)The [#SOSCollective](#) (Saving Our Selves, Saving Our Sistas) has always existed, but we created a name to capture the work we've all done for decades to uplift, celebrate, and advocate for Black women through our scholarship, mentoring, and resource sharing in the academy.

[LoriTheeBuckeye @LoriPattonDavis](#)

(2/5)Realizing that not every Black woman is part of a collective or circle, we moved the needle forward by expanding our engagement to a broader audience. Its important for us to create a space where the issues Black women face are central.

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(3/5)We planned to do more public-facing work, but the resignation of Claudine Gay as Harvard's President, & the loss of Dr. Antoinette Bailey prompted us to move more quickly. The bottom line is Black women don't benefit from protection or care. We have to do this work ourselves

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(4/5)The [#SOSCollective](#) is one way of responding to that call. We want Black women inside the academy and beyond to live and experience their full humanity. This is our contribution to what we hope will become a broader movement of Black women galvanizing.

[LoriTheeBuckeye @LoriPattonDavis](#)

(5/5)We are excited about what's to come including our next webinar, 'You good Sis?': Saving Our Sista's Mental Health. More details to come and I hope those viewing this chat will register and join us!

[5:39 pm] Dr. Luster (@DrPamLuster)

Q6 @LoriPattonDavis. Can you share more about how understanding intersectionality is critical for creating lasting institutional change and advancing racial equity? @DrTammeil @lamkeithcurry @CollegeFutures #EquityChat #EquityAvengers

[LoriTheeBuckeye @LoriPattonDavis](#)

(1/4)I love [#intersectionality](#). It's important because equity conversations too often focus solely on race. Intersectionality pushes us to broaden our scope and account for the impact of race, gender, class & other markers of identity within broader systems of oppression.

[LoriTheeBuckeye @LoriPattonDavis](#)

(2/4) In "Hidden in Plain Sight: The Black Women's Blueprint for Institutional Transformation in Higher Education" <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/abs/10.1177/016146811812001405...> @ChaylaHaynesDavison and I challenge institutional leaders to take up intersectionality to engage transformation by recognizing 3 things:
<https://t.co/oja9TfhRbH>

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(3/4) 1) current change models often reproduce "the master's tools", 2) current change models promote silencing and erasure of Black women, yet rely on their labor, and 3) Black women should be positioned as possibility models in the discourses regarding transformation.

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(4/4) From Black women's experiences, we learn: 1) the importance of moving beyond single-axis issues, 2) transformation is rooted in authentic and urgent leadership, and 3) the need to allow space & ensure the most marginalized voices sit at the center of driving transformation

[5:46pm] Dr. Gilkerson (@DrTammeil)

Q7 @LoriPattonDavis. To do this work, we must continue learning and partnering with others. How do you educate yourself and who is informing your practice? @DrPamLuster @lamkeithcurry @CollegeFutures #EquityChat #EquityAvengers

[LoriTheeBuckeye @LoriPattonDavis](#)

(1/3) I read A LOT and try to stay updated on current issues. I learn a lot about new articles, books and projects via social media. I also listen a great deal because I'm interested in learning multiple perspectives a given topic.

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(2/3) I participate in workshops and professional development so the work always feels dynamic and engaging because I'm pulling from multiple sources. So many wonderful scholars, activists, filmmakers, and artists are producing work that informs my practice.

[LoriTheeBuckeye @LoriPattonDavis](#)

(3/3) I won't attempt to name all those who inspire and influence me. Overall, I connect strongly with contributions that are critical, thought-provoking and make me release paradigms and ways of thinking that are prohibitive to liberation.

[5:53 pm] Dr. Curry (@iamkeithcurry)

Q8 @LoriPattonDavis. We all have a vision of the future we want to live in. What is your freedom dream for higher education and what gives you hope for its future? @DrPamLuster @DrTammeil @CollegeFutures #EquityChat #EquityAvengers

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(1/2)Great question. I don't have a freedom dream specifically for higher education and debate its capacity to be a space for genuine freedom dreaming for Black people.

[LoriTheeBuckeye @LoriPattonDavis](#)

(2/2)That said, I feel very hopeful about my capacity to either create or exist in spaces with people who revel in joy, love & peace, whether its in academia or not. I aspire to see these ideals experienced everywhere. I hope others are inspired to create them wherever they are.

[Christina Supe | My Writing Coach @myk12coach](#)

LOVE! Joy!!!

[6:00 pm] Dr. Luster (@DrPamLuster)

TY @swthayer for sharing your work on #EquityChat sponsored by @CollegeFutures, we look forward to seeing you soar @CypressCollege Stay tuned for next week's guest announcement, & coming soon...to a pod near you...@iamkeithcurry @DrTammeil @DrPamLuster @equityavengers #unite!

[LoriTheeBuckeye @LoriPattonDavis](#)

Thank you for inviting me!!

[Dr Pamela Luster #EquityAvengers #RealCollegePrez @DrPamLuster](#)

I'm hopeful that folks will continue to read on through the next few days to learn from you and your work-thank you [@LoriPattonDavis #EquityChat @equityavengers](#)