

Racist linguistics department at UIUC

Wednesday, April 06, 2005

Racism in the Linguistics department at UIUC

I recently came across some stories of the graduate students in the department of Linguistics at University of Illinois, Urbana Champaign and these stories have been giving me sleepless nights. The faculty in this department have been outrightly racist. I am making a documentary film on how students are oppressed because of their color, religion, nationality and sexual orientation. In this blog I will write about this department and its discriminatory practices. If you have stories to share, please post them in the 'comments' part.

posted by noracism @ **8:33 PM**

6 COMMENTS:

At **1:29 AM**,  **NPJ** said...

Couldn't agree more. Keep up! I was an undergrad at UIUC and took classes in Linguistics. It was weird, I was ALWAYS the only African American. The Profs were quite ignorant and openly racist. Guess that's why not many students really want to go to that program.

At **9:47 AM**,  **joelando9422** said...

I read over your blog, and I found it inquisitive, you may find [My Blog](#) interesting. My blog is just about my day to day life, as a park ranger. So please [Click Here To Read My Blog](#)

At **3:41 AM**,  **Thalamus** said...

I've been meaning to write something for a while but also wanted to leave the past, well, in the past. But it is important for students applying to this Linguistics department to know what exactly they should expect. I wish this blog had been available for me when I considered applying.

There is a lot for me to list, so, I'll write bits at a time.

To start off with, a number (six) of PhD candidates decided to leave all at once in 2004 due to numerous and sometimes collective acts of discrimination from faculty towards these students and many others.

At the same time, a phonologist by the name of Daniel Silverman was basically fired from the department not on the grounds of his constant acts of discrimination (which I'll elaborate on more in future posts), but on the fact that the faculty could not tolerate his sexual preferences. Daniel Silverman was a gay man who kept his same sex preferences to himself and was not open about it to the predominately intolerant racist department.

Yet, they knew as all students knew. He was also a very unconfident character and was bullied by certain staff members.

About Me

Name: **noracism**

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Now I want to shed light on this faculty member being a subject of discrimination, yet at the same time a very racist individual in his own manner.

Recalling one incident at a talk, James Yoon (a Korean-American Syntactician and ultra right wing Christian) began to humiliate Dan in front of a number of graduate students. He addressed Dan out loud about his manner of dress and why he was so cheap as to not buy himself some clothes with the good salary the department is paying him.

Poor Dan was crushed, made an inaudible response, and as pathetic as an injured bird bumped his way through the chairs to sit on the other side of the room by us.

I'll stop here for now and will give another post on Daniel Silverman playing the victimizer. On people he found weaker than him, graduate students.

At 7:01 AM, noracism said...

continuing from thalamus, let's talk about the real story of: The Devil and Daniel Silverman not the one by Theodore Roszak.

Dan would love to identify himself as a open minded liberal. Yet sadly he also enjoyed intimidating Muslim students. Before 911, he would teach classes wearing Israeli army attire. Many might think, so what? My response would be, wear the shoes of the Arab, or better yet, reverse the situation and have an Arab teacher dress in a Hizballah uniform while teaching an advanced phonology course.

Dan was also the type of professor who praised the best student that solved the phonology problem of the week by distributing their answer to the class and whiting out their entire name. Except, for one Arab student, he managed to leave the letters 'ass' that make up part of their sir name and stated at the same time 'I bet you guys could guess who's name that is' and looked towards the student and stated 'xerox error'.

Yes Dan was a typical home grown bigot.

He announced 911 by coming to class and hissing 'those terrorists disgust me' while looking at the two of the Arab students in the class. This was on the same sad day when nothing was determined yet by the the news media.

He taught class in a depressed mood for half the remainder of the semester. That is, until the US bombed Afghanistan. That Monday, following the Sunday attack, Dan walked into class wearing a cardigan and stating that he felt like the television host Mr. Rogers (it's a beautiful day in the neighborhood). Then he looked at two of his Arab-American students and said 'you guys probably don't know who I'm talking about'.

Yes Daniel Silverman the victim was also a seriously ill victimizer.

At one point Dan also attacked a student through email to other faculty for wearing a pin that had an Israeli flag on it with a nosmoking sign stating 'End the Occupation' in bold red letters. The head of the department called in the student and asked him to remove it after informing him of emails suggesting Anti-Semitism. The student was an Arab and a white American had worn it before him for two weeks without any protest from anyone. yet he wore it for only three days and he was labelled Anti-Semitic?

Sadly, Dan also had a much more controversial article by Thomas Friedman posted on his door in front of the Graduate lounge stating the Devil is Dancing in the MiddleEast. No one stripped him of his article or IDF clothes, nor would we want to. Let him label himself so that people don't waste their time or energy taking courses with him.

Rakesh Bhatt, the other king of departmental bigots actually had the RSS emblem on his office door. That is equivelent to the KKK being on a white

professors door. We will talk about him later. For now, I log off.

At 6:59 AM,  davidalaxander9577 said...

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<http://pennystockinvestment.blogspot.com>

At 11:57 AM,  eddyhill07683669 said...

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