

# DAS' DECOLONIAL BINGO

<p><b>B</b></p> <p><b>IS FOR BUT...</b></p>	<p><b>I</b></p> <p><b>IS FOR "I FEEL"</b></p>	<p><b>N</b></p> <p><b>IS FOR NEUTRALITY</b></p>	<p><b>G</b></p> <p><b>IS FOR "GET YOUR HISTORY BOOK OUT"</b></p>	<p><b>O</b></p> <p><b>IS FOR ORGANIZATION</b></p>
<p><b>Have we not always been racist?</b></p> <p>If the best trick the Devil ever pulled was making people believe he didn't exist, racism's coup de grace was making people believe it has always been here. There is room to educate and engage people with the history of race in science and colonialism that could potentially change the whole way they look at and see the world.</p>	<p><b>... you are having a go at me for something that isn't my fault.</b></p> <p>This is white fragility. Get to know it and find ways to work around it. If you are racialized as white, use your advantage to talk to this person as someone they are not threatened by. If you are not racialized as white, find someone who is able to help you. We all need allies.</p>	<p><b>So much has already been done, can we not focus on the positive?</b></p> <p>Of course we can. Well done to us!</p> <p>We're all still racist, though, so now we need to work on that.</p>	<p><b>You got that date wrong.</b></p> <p>We work in a sector where the facts are important, so if you have made a mistake, acknowledge it and move on. There are more important things to think about here.</p> <p>Say, "Yes, fine, thanks. Moving on."</p>	<p><b>I feel so powerless in this situation, and I'm only one person. What can I do?</b></p> <p>Do something! Your marginalized friends are tired.</p> <p>In the same way that we all have parts of our identities that are marginalised and discriminated against, so do we all have some privileges. Find them and use them to best advantage. How can you be ally?</p>
<p><b>What about the Irish/Scottish?</b></p> <p>The goal of this line of argument is to demonstrate that people racialized as white where oppressed to, and this is true, but also complicated as both these groups/nations also benefitted from British colonial expansion and played active roles within it. There is room for a lot of discussion about these complexities if people are willing to listen. Solidarity with the Irish and the Scottish.</p>	<p><b>... we should focus on the things we all have in common.</b></p> <p>Much as that would be lovely, and is also the ultimate goal, it is not possible to fast-forward to equality without first acknowledging and reflecting on existing structural inequality. We got here deliberately, we need to get out deliberately too.</p>	<p><b>Our job is to present the facts, not to preach politics.</b></p> <p>Colonialism — the mechanism by which people have been marginalised on the basis of their race, ability, class and gender, is a historical fact. The past is inevitably political as a result. It is our job to redress the balance of history in critical and nuanced ways.</p>	<p><b>Everyone was racist back in the day, you can't judge historical figures by today's standards.</b></p> <p>This is not true. Our contemporary liberal attitudes are the result of the work and sacrifice of generations of our predecessors who did not subscribe to oppressive, colonial views. Solidarity in the past paved the way for solidarity in the present. Solidarity is still what we need now.</p>	<p><b>What if I do something that leads to me being disciplined or losing my job?</b></p> <p>That's not how it works. There is no museum police and, provided that you have done your research and developed your arguments thoroughly, you can't be fired for doing your job. Ask for forgiveness if you have to, but do not ask for permission.</p>
<p><b>Studies show that Black people are less intelligent than white people?</b></p> <p>There are also studies that show that intelligence appears to be inherited according to class, and that wealthy people appear more intelligent because of access to and cultural emphasis on education. Science is a useful tool for explaining things, not a weapon to be wielded against people.</p>	<p><b>I don't see colour.</b></p> <p>This is a white privilege. People who are not racialized as white do not have a choice about whether or not they can acknowledge race. Try to explain to this person that if they don't see colour, then they don't see you, or the structures in our society that are framed to make you other, and they cannot help you until they do.</p>	<p><b>We don't want to alienate our existing audiences.</b></p> <p>If by 'existing audiences' they mean people who are racist, ableist, sexist, and transphobic then there is not a lot more to talk about here. If they are open to this critique and are willing to change, then there is hope here.</p>	<p><b>It was Arabs and Africans that started slavery.</b></p> <p>There was a world of difference between African slavery before the colonial era and chattel slavery and the transatlantic trade in enslaved Africans, but that is not what this person is interested in hearing. Their goal is to point out that non-white people can be racist, which should be news to no one. Try and explore what this means for us today.</p>	<p><b>This feels so overwhelming, like trying to turn an ocean liner around.</b></p> <p>The environmental activist Clayton Thomas says that social change is not like an ocean liner, it's more like a school of fish. All it takes is for a few individuals to move differently, and the whole school can change direction really quickly.</p>
<p><b>What about white working-class boys?</b></p> <p>This sounds like a variation on the statements above, but is in fact part of a, sadly, well-established repertoire of arguments used by racists to derail conversations about race. You're not going to make a difference here. Get out.</p>	<p><b>You calling me "white" shows you are the real racist.</b></p> <p>'Reverse racism' or racism against white people is not a thing. The structures of racism actively disadvantage non-white people in favour of white people. This is someone spoiling for a fight. Get out.</p>	<p><b>You seem very angry about this, are you sure you are not taking things too personally?</b></p> <p>You may be justifiably angry, and making a cogent argument nonetheless, but this person is not listening. Unless they are someone you trust or are close to, this is something that will always be personal to you in a way it's not for them. Save yourself and get out.</p>	<p><b>Britain abolished slavery.</b></p> <p>This sounds like it's the same as the entry above, but there is a subtle difference invoked by the use of the word 'Britain'. Here it is a signal for national identity, and people who make this argument are willing to bet their house on their national identity. Get out.</p>	<p><b>You should be grateful you get to be here and say all these things.</b></p> <p>This is outright racist, get out!</p>