


# Confronting Racism to Advance Our Science

## Other Journal Item

### Author(s):

Zeitler, Peter; Barros, Ana P.; Becker, Thorsten W.; Davidson, Eric A.; Ehlmann, Bethany L.; [Gruber, Nicolas](#) ; Hofmann, Eileen E.; Hudson, Mary K.; Illangasekare, Tissa H.; Kang, Sarah M.; Malanotte-Rizzoli, Paola; Moerchen, Margaret; Nimmo, Francis; Parsons, Tom; Salters, Vincent J.M.; Stevens, Bjorn; Trumbore, Susan; Wuebbles, Donald J.; Zhu, Tong

### Publication date:

2021-03

### Permanent link:

<https://doi.org/10.3929/ethz-b-000519212>

### Rights / license:

[Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial 4.0 International](#)

### Originally published in:

AGU Advances 2(1), <https://doi.org/10.1029/2020AV000296>



## EDITORIAL

10.1029/2020AV000296

## Special Section:

Diversity, Equity, and  
Inclusion in the Earth and  
Space Sciences

## Key Points:

- The editorial board wishes to enable their journal to represent the Earth and space sciences community in all its diversity
- The board recognizes that inequality is part of systems that have allowed them to prosper and pledges to support diversity and inclusion
- The board will commission and take contributions to an editorial series on the nature and impact of racism and other inequities in science

## Correspondence to:

P. Zeitler,  
peter.zeitler@lehigh.edu

## Citation:

Zeitler, P., Barros, A. P., Becker, T. W., Davidson, E. A., Ehlmann, B. L., Gruber, N., et al. (2021). Confronting racism to advance our science. *AGU Advances*, 2, e2020AV000296. <https://doi.org/10.1029/2020AV000296>

Received 8 SEP 2020

Accepted 8 OCT 2020

## Confronting Racism to Advance Our Science

Peter Zeitler<sup>1</sup> , Ana P. Barros<sup>2</sup> , Thorsten W. Becker<sup>3</sup> , Eric A. Davidson<sup>4</sup> , Bethany L. Ehlmann<sup>5,6</sup> , Nicolas Gruber<sup>7</sup> , Eileen E. Hofmann<sup>8</sup> , Mary K. Hudson<sup>9</sup>, Tissa H. Illangasekare<sup>10</sup>, Sarah M. Kang<sup>11</sup> , Paola Malanotte-Rizzoli<sup>12</sup> , Margaret Moerchen<sup>13</sup> , Francis Nimmo<sup>14</sup> , Tom Parsons<sup>15</sup> , Vincent J. M. Salters<sup>16</sup> , Bjorn Stevens<sup>17</sup> , Susan Trumbore<sup>18,19</sup> , Donald J. Wuebbles<sup>20</sup> , and Tong Zhu<sup>21</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences, Lehigh University, Bethlehem, PA, USA, <sup>2</sup>Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Pratt School of Engineering, Duke University, Durham, NC, USA, <sup>3</sup>Department of Geological Sciences and Institute for Geophysics, Jackson School of Geosciences, The University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX, USA, <sup>4</sup>Appalachian Laboratory, University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science, Frostburg, MD, USA, <sup>5</sup>Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Pasadena, CA, USA, <sup>6</sup>Division of Geological and Planetary Sciences, California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, CA, USA, <sup>7</sup>Department of Environmental Systems Science and Center for Climate Systems Modeling, ETH Zürich, Zürich, Switzerland, <sup>8</sup>Center for Coastal Physical Oceanography, Department of Ocean and Earth Sciences, Old Dominion University, Norfolk, VA, USA, <sup>9</sup>Department of Physics and Astronomy, Dartmouth College, Hanover, NH, USA, <sup>10</sup>Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering and Center for the Experimental Study of Subsurface Environmental Processes, Colorado School of Mines, Golden, CO, USA, <sup>11</sup>Climate Dynamics Lab, Ulsan National Institute of Science and Technology, Ulsan, South Korea, <sup>12</sup>Department of Earth, Atmospheric and Planetary Sciences, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA, USA, <sup>13</sup>American Geophysical Union, Washington, DC, USA, <sup>14</sup>Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences, University of California, Santa Cruz, CA, USA, <sup>15</sup>United States Geological Survey, Menlo Park, CA, USA, <sup>16</sup>Department of Earth, Ocean, and Atmospheric Science and National High Magnetic Field Laboratory, Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL, USA, <sup>17</sup>Max Planck Institute for Meteorology, Hamburg, Germany, <sup>18</sup>Max Planck Institute for Biogeochemistry, Jena, Germany, <sup>19</sup>Biogeochemical Processes, University of California, Irvine, CA, USA, <sup>20</sup>Department of Atmospheric Sciences, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Urbana, IL, USA, <sup>21</sup>College of Environmental Sciences and Engineering, Peking University, Beijing, China

**Abstract** As individuals serving on the AGU Advances editorial board, we condemn racism, affirm that Black Lives Matter, and recognize that inequality is built into the systems that have allowed us to prosper. We aim to persistently foster discussion about racism, inequity, and the need to make our community more diverse and inclusive. This will help AGU Advances do a better job in publishing important science that inclusively reflects the ideas and contributions of all in our community.

These are challenging times. The context for the killing of George Floyd and too many others has compelled people across the world to confront the reality of the racism built into our institutions, including the science and education enterprise. For many, this is their lived experience. For others, thinking about this is uncomfortable: Even the most well-intentioned must come to grips with their role in perpetuating inequalities of access and opportunity.

We, as individuals serving on the editorial board, condemn racism, affirm that Black Lives Matter, and recognize that inequality is built into the systems that have allowed us to prosper. We pledge our commitment to support diversity and inclusion within the publishing process, the AGU community, and the Earth and space sciences community at large. We do not purport to speak for AGU as an organization nor for any of the global geosciences community, who have already made strong statements (e.g., <https://fromtheprow.agu.org/agu-demands-diversity-equity-and-inclusion/>, <https://www.change.org/p/geoscientists-call-for-a-robust-anti-racism-plan-for-the-geosciences>, and <https://notimeforsilence.org/>), but as editors of AGU Advances, AGU's new flagship journal, it is very much our concern that our journal represents our community in all its diversity. We realize that together with our reviewers, journal editors serve as important gatekeepers not only for who publishes what but also for the academic rewards associated with publication, including its impact on reputation, influence, promotion, and funding.

But our statements of condemnation or support are not enough. Concrete and continuous actions are required to confront structural racism. We are obligated to those who have suffered injustice to be willing to make changes and try new things, and we will be examining our policies and procedures. As a crucial

©2021. The Authors.

This is an open access article under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivs License, which permits use and distribution in any medium, provided the original work is properly cited, the use is non-commercial and no modifications or adaptations are made.

first step, we must learn from our colleagues who have experienced bias and barriers and listen to their ideas of what kind of change is needed for the Earth and space sciences to function as a diverse and inclusive community.

To this end, we are commissioning an ongoing series of editorials on the nature and impacts of racism and other inequities built into the Earth and space sciences. We have begun by reaching out to a diverse group of scientists, and we are interested in hearing from anyone who feels impassioned to speak or who wishes to suggest an author other than themselves. Our hope is that these editorials will explore specific issues that need attention and/or propose effective ways to bring about change. Our goal in persistently highlighting discussion about racism, inequity, and the need for change is to help our community advance, to become more diverse and inclusive, and to help AGU Advances do a better job by publishing important science that inclusively reflects the ideas and contributions of all in our community.

### **Data Availability Statement**

No new data are presented in this article.