Brandon Ables

Meta Review - Anti-Racist HCI: notes on an emerging critical technical practice

Reviewer Scores and Expertise:

	Assigned Score	Expertise on Topic
Reviewer 1	3	1
Reviewer 2	4	3
Reviewer 3	4	2
Average	3.66	2

1.   All three reviewers note the contribution of clarifying and advocating for anti-racist design practices. Reviewer 3 extends this to highlight a statement from the paper that designs cannot be neutral, and overturning racism in HCI requires a proactive commitment from researchers. For the significance of the paper's contribution, Reviewer 1 does not find it original or significant as only previous findings have been listed. Reviewers 2 and 3 found general significance of contribution in the areas on enabling HCI to better serve diverse communities and maintain ethical standards in addressing societal inequities. Reviewer 3 also highlights the contribution of anti-racist design being "a conscious process" that must be maintained throughout the design and development process.

        All three reviewers share slightly negative responses in the area of originality. Reviewer 1 states outright that the work did not bring any new ideas and approaches. Reviewer 3 states it is only original in that anti-racism is a guiding principle rather than a common HCI subject like usability. Reviewer 2 notes that the paper demonstrates how design can be a tool for critical thinking, but this contribution has been made before, which I am in agreement with. For the area of validity, Reviewers 1 and 2 state a strong and confident belief in the validity of the work. Reviewer 3 differs by stating even though the results can be used to conduct similar research, they feel the paper to be more of a starting point than a finished work.

        In the area of clarity, Reviewers 1 and 2 agree in finding the paper clear and presented logically. Reviewer 3 differs in finding the paper may have benefitted from a traditional paper framework with an introduction, theoretical framework, methodology, and findings sections. For an adequate review of previous work, Reviewer 1 did not respond. Reviewer 2 finds the review of previous work to be accurate. Reviewer 3 wanted a more focused literature review on the work others have done designing against racism and their barriers to success, which I also support.

2. What must be addressed in the paper:

- Structure the paper in a more traditional format – intro, theoretical framework, methodology, findings, etc.

- Reassess and refine the presentation of your novel contribution regarding demonstrating how design can be a tool for critical thinking and how design is a conscious process and cannot be neutral.

3. Recommendation – Weak invite for journal submission

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	Reviewer 1	Reviewer 2	Reviewer 3
Contribution	clarification of anti-racist design practices and how they can be adopted to create more equitable sociotechnical systems.	advocates for a fundamental transformation to establish sociotechnical systems that actively counteract oppression.	identifying anti-racist HCI as a distinct approach within critical technical practices, designs can not be neutral, to make a difference, researchers have to consider a proactive approach to overturning racism in HCI
Significance of Contribution	not original or significant because they provided a list of anti-racist premises for HCI that were already found in previous studies. did not provide techniques for anti-racist design	promotes equitable, socially responsible technology that actively combats oppression, enabling HCI to better serve diverse communities and maintain ethical standards in addressing societal inequities	HCI is about improving human experiences during interaction and not just the experiences of a particular group. a conscious process, which means that others have to have this thought as they go on designing and developing.
Originality	The work did not bring new ideas and approaches. The findings of the list of thirty premises for anti-racist HCI were from other studies. did provide some challenges with anti-racist design practices so others can be aware and avoid some of the same issues.	The anti-racist HCI framework prioritizes anti-racism over neutrality, advocating for a proactive approach to addressing racial inequities in sociotechnical systems. research-through-design methodology to investigate and prototype systems that reveal and challenge racialized assumptions, demonstrating how design can be a tool for critical thinking.	By focusing on anti-racism and exploring that as a guiding principle, instead of other concepts usually centered in other HCI research through design i.e usability, it shows originality.
Validity	Researchers and practitioners can confidently use the list of anti-racist HCI premises because they were back by previous studies from the literature review.	strong validity because they combine theoretical exploration with practical prototype development, laying the groundwork for its proposed anti-racist HCI framework. acknowledges the challenges of implementing these practices and encourages further research and adaptation to different cultural and institutional contexts.	I believe that the results can be used as a guide to conducting similar research. But it is more of a good start than a finished work.
Clarity	The paper was presented in a clear and organized manner.	The authors organize the content logically, Key concepts are well-defined, and the use of empirical examples and prototypes helps to illustrate theoretical points, making them more relatable and understandable.	I would like to suggest that the presentation style could have benefitted from the traditional writing style of a clear definition of the introduction, theoretical framework, methodology, findings, and so on.

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	Reviewer 1	Reviewer 2	Reviewer 3
Previous Work Adequately Reviewed?	No response	The authors reference literature on topics such as dataset bias, algorithmic transparency, and participatory design, demonstrating a comprehensive understanding of existing knowledge and practices.	The authors effectively integrate prior work from critical race theory, HCI, and socio-technical systems for the principles, but I would have liked to see a literature section on the work others have done as regards designing against racism and the barriers to their success.