

NARRATOR:

The Disability & Philanthropy Forum presents Dr. Subini Annamma, Associate Professor at Stanford University.

DR. SUBINI ANNAMMA:

When we think about racism and ableism, if we can start with the concept that they are interdependent, they rely on each other. And what I mean by that is, as a Critical Race Theorist, Mari Matsuda talks about racism as being the foundation of a racial hierarchy. And then, so what I think a lot of us are adding is, if racism is the foundation, then ableism is the scaffolding. It's how we create the hierarchy, by situating some people as less than in behavior, in productivity, as TL would say, or intelligence. And so we create this hierarchy through racism and ableism leaning on each other. And so that's really what animates this project. And so to take it to young, Black and Brown youth, age doesn't protect disabled Black and Brown children because they're imagined as not as innocent. What scholars like Jamilia Blake and Thalia Gonzalez have named as adultification of Black girls.

But those same Black children are also imagined as hyper strong and aggressive, so they're also seen as these...kind of not innocent and yet super aggressive and strong. And so disabled Black and Brown children become punished because of their disabilities, even though they're supposed to be protected because of their disabilities, they actually start being punished because of these different qualities that people think that they have.

NARRATOR:

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