



Stolen Tools

THE ANTI-RACIST JOURNAL

Stealing the Master's Tools

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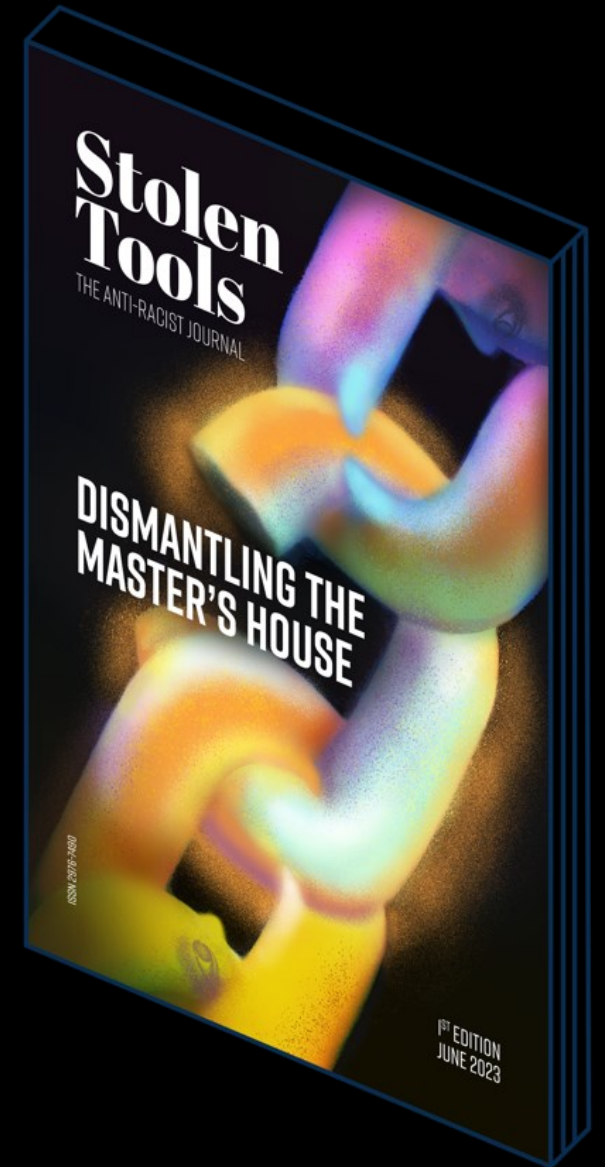
 brighton and sussex
medical school

20
Celebrating
20 years

US
UNIVERSITY
OF SUSSEX

Overview of the Presentation

1. What is Stolen Tools?
2. How it came to be
3. Our plans for the future!



Racialised knowledge is often dismissed in academia



- An anti-racist journal inspired by Audre Lorde's famous essay 'The Master's Tools Will Never Dismantle the Master's House'.
- Creating new, more accessible ways of producing knowledge for people from racialised minorities.
- Changing what knowledge is valued in academia by stealing tools/creating our own power base.

“Those of us who stand outside the circle of this society's definition of acceptable women; those of us who have been forged in the crucibles of difference -- those of us who are poor, who are lesbians, who are Black, who are older -- know that survival is not an academic skill. It is learning how to take our differences and make them strengths.” – Audre Lorde (1983), p99

Promoting Racialised Voices

- **Encouraging contributions:** Unique submission system that puts ‘people before papers’
- **Developing contributions:** A mentor/”critical friend” system, and open peer review (recorded)
- **Reducing the burden of contributing (for all):** Flexible referencing, payment throughout.
- **Improving recognition and awareness:** Open Access and the Credit system

13. Why are you submitting to Stolen Tools? (200 words max) *

Enter your answer

14. What drives your passion around health inequalities research/pieces? (200 words max) *

Enter your answer



Challenging what counts as knowledge

- Space to be emotionally and politically expressive. Challenging our self-censorship.
- Sharing knowledge in as many ways as possible (poems, stories etc.)
- Involving non-university researchers in knowledge production.
- Challenging the journal system to reform and revolutionise.



Artwork from Natasha Katashila

Beginning in anger and solidarity

- The journal system felt cutthroat, impersonal and exploitative. It didn't constructively work with authors to build their article.
- Challenging knowledge production systems was a crucial part of anti-racism I felt was missing.
- I was surrounded by inspiring people at KCL who I wanted to bring together.
- This group faded away just as we received good news about our Race Equity funding application.



Finding Institutional Support

- Through long-term relationships, we started working with the KCL Library: openness, curiosity, and advocacy.
- Shared goals of Anti-Racism and Open Knowledge
- What was done to support
 - Knowledge and resource sharing
 - Information Literacy training
 - Anti-racism Journal Club special edition
 - Freeing up a staff member to join the editorial board
- What Stolen Tools offers
 - Help and advice building an anti-racist culture (e.g., staff skills)
 - Contributing and promoting a greater range of knowledge (e.g. professional services)

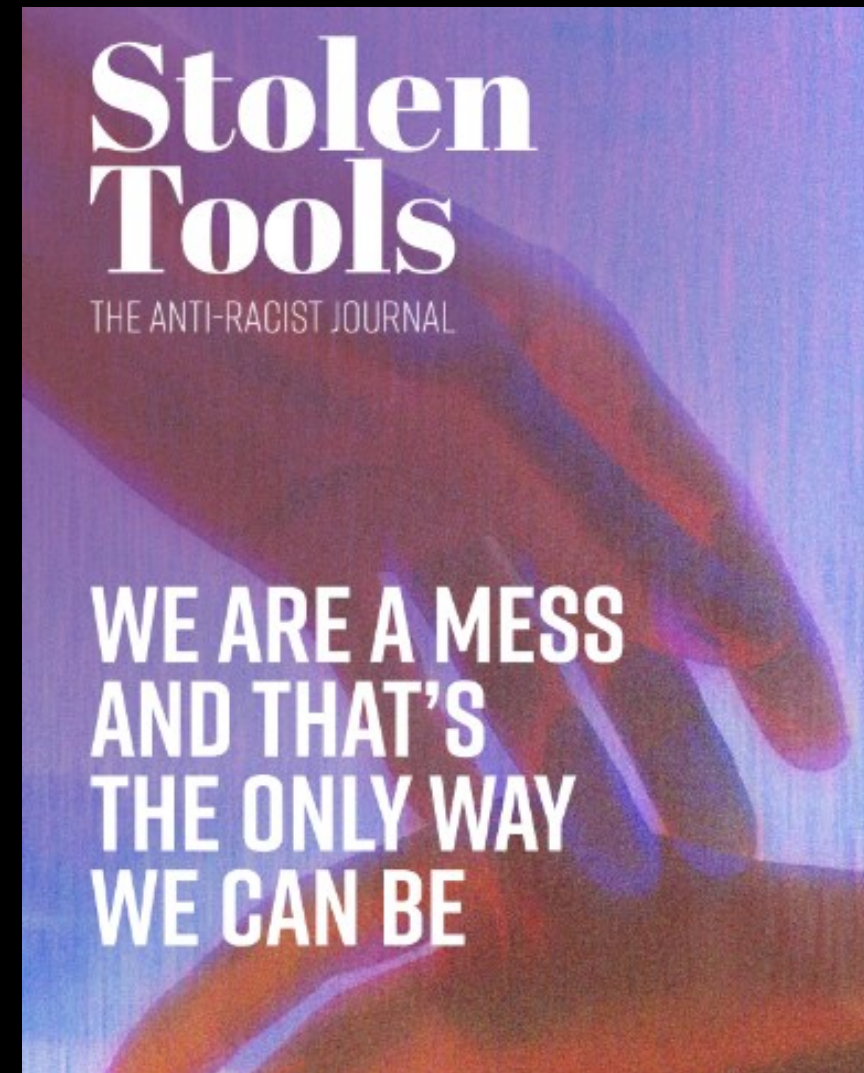


The Limitations of universities

- Being tied to an institution may have issues around creative self-expression, as we've seen with recent attacks on academic freedom.
- Having funding from one or two institutions is precarious if things change.
- Our second issue highlights how difficult authentic relationships are in university contexts.
- Working from a Western institution means that our opportunities are concentrated there. We are trying to improving things around language and institutional collaborations.

What comes next? **Second issue and beyond**

- Second issue is on intersectionality and Audre Lorde's concept of the 'erotic'.
- We're doing special issues to move away from centralising power (neurodiversity, anti-colonial struggle, and a student take-over).
- Additional content to aid understanding (e.g. our Explainers series), more artist involvement, audio content.
- University of Sussex, and Brighton and Sussex Medical School sponsoring this issue.



Sustainability, funding and partnerships

- Diamond Open Access: A publishing model where academic articles are freely accessible. Often supported by institutional funding.
- Going Beyond Open Access: crowdsourcing from individuals, libraries, including some income generation.
- Forming relationships around open access campaigns, changing the journal system, recognising diverse knowledges, promoting culture change. Secondment a really crucial innovation.
- Could you be next? Sponsor an issue, sign up for a solidarity subscription, come on secondment, receive copies of our second issue for your library!



Please get in touch to continue the conversation

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