**Accounting and Race Forum Synopsis**

**Who are we?**

We are a group of scholars who research race and racism in accounting and various tangential areas. The field of race is an extremely contentious topic both within the accounting academy and industry and tends to leave those who explore it isolated. Because of this the Accounting and Race Forum was born to help address this issue by providing both resources and a platform to aid research efforts through expanding knowledge in this area and connecting researchers to one another. The group is racially diverse consisting of People of Color and Critical White allies seeking to challenge institutional racism (as well as other inequities) found within the accounting industry in various countries across the globe.

It is for this reason that research by critical accounting scholars of race must take place, to unpack seldom explored knowledge, adding to the meager amount that currently exists. The forum is expanding with representation from the United States, United Kingdom, Canada, and South Africa. The researchers who make up the network range from PhD students to middle career academics, to senior leaders in the field all committed to developing the area of race and accounting.

**What we do**

To my knowledge I believe the Accounting and Race Forum has inadvertently created the first global network of accounting scholars dedicated to the application of theoretical models such as Critical Race Theory and other race critical perspectives to the accounting profession. Part of our mission is to foster critical debate both inside and outside the group. To be a think tank of sorts. To this end each month a guest speaker is invited to explore their research in race and accounting or another area entirely, which contributes to the cross disciplinary focus that the group fosters.

We also provide support for one another. Perhaps PhD students need clarification upon the finer points of a particular theory? We help provide for that need within the group. Should researchers require a wider pool of Black or People of Color respondents to interview, the forum helps here as well. Our expansive interpersonal and global network of professionals in the field is accessible freely to those who need it.

But the forum also serves another extremely important role. As mentioned above, this area of research is isolating and contentious. The group therefore acts as a de facto support mechanism both socially and psychologically for members, where all can share their ups and downs, and frustrations of finding one’s way through a difficult research arena.

**Future aims**

The group seeks to better critique Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion policy produced by the Big 4 global accounting firms, and some middle level, as well national accounting bodies (AICPA, ICAEW, ACCA etc.) to help add research findings to address the paucity of Black and Brown accountants found in a number of countries. The problem is pervasive and must be tackled in a meaningful and consistent way which up to this moment in time it has not.

The Accounting and Race Forum also seeks to push accounting academe, those editors of top accounting journals, to take the subject seriously and publish work on race. Up to this date this has not really happened in any consistent way despite the recent social upheaval that has occurred surrounding the loss of Mr. George Floyd and the work of the Black Lives Matter movement. We wish accounting academia to explain its lack of presence in this space and call for it to rectify this problem at the highest levels. In truth the Forum calls for racial equity for Black and Brown accountants (as well as other stigmatized groups) to be taken seriously by the Ivory Tower as well as those multinational accounting firms with which it has a relationship with.