

## Seeing White – Short-term Interest Group

Diane Jablonski initiated a group to listen to the podcast Seeing White - [Seeing White – Scene on Radio](#) to provide a forum to discuss issues of race in light of the Black Lives Matter movement and the killing of George Floyd. While the podcast was created in 2017, it was amazingly current for our discussion. The podcast asks the question where did the notion of “whiteness” come from? What does it mean? What is whiteness for? Complete with interviews with noted scholars the podcast addressed history as normally taught in the United States with new perspectives and information.

The group met twice a month from September, 2020 through January 2021 on Zoom. Approximately 30 women participated in discussions based on the podcast which they listened to in advance. An unexpected benefit of the group was that as everyone started doing their own research and began to identify additional resources related to race, an enormous amount of material was shared among the group members, often leading in unexpected directions.

In a time of pandemic and increasing racial unrest in the country, this group was an inspiration to me as we all grew in understanding our history, reflected on our implicit biases, and grew in unexpected directions as we explored together.

I am grateful for support from the DIE committee, and particularly to Gwen Higgins who was an active participant in the discussions, and led the final discussion session. But I am most thankful for all the women who participated in the group and shared their views, concerns, and thoughts in a thoughtful yet candid manner. As we move out of the pandemic isolation we’ve all felt, the group participating in Seeing White will be one of my best memories from the pandemic times.