Carl E. James

Carl James is the Jean Augustine Chair in Education, Community and Diaspora in the Faculty of Education at York University. He is the Affirmative Action, Equity and Inclusivity Officer at York University where he is a professor in the Faculty of Education and holds cross-appointments in the Graduate Programs in Sociology, Social and Political Thought, and Social Work. Also, he is currently one of 6 Advisors to the Ontario Minister of Education and Premier.

A Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, and awarded an Honorary Doctorate from Uppsala University, Sweden, James is widely recognized locally, nationally and internationally for his work and leadership in equity and social justice. He has been visiting professor at a number of universities in Canada, Australia and Sweden – in Sweden, he taught part-time in the Department of Education at Uppsala University (among others) for 15 years (1997 – 2012).

In his work, James seeks to encourage and support inquiries into issues and concerns of Black and other racialized Canadians. He advocates on education for change by documenting the struggles, contradictions and paradoxes of the experiences of racialized students at all levels of the educational system; and in doing so, seeks to address and move us beyond the essentialist, generalized and homogenizing representation and notions that account for the representation and achievements of racialized people in educational institutions, workplaces, and society generally.

Widely published, his publications include: Seeing Ourselves: Exploring Race, Ethnicity and Identity; Life at the Intersection: Community, Class and Schooling; and The Equity Myth: Racialization and Indigeneity at Canadian Universities (with F. Henry, E. Dua, A. Kobayashi, P. Li, H. Ramos, M.S. Smith.)