Parallels between CRT and conspiracy theories

Please note: the goal of this document is not to assert that all claims of racism in society are invalid. But such claims have to be specific and identifiable, so that they can be discussed based on their substance. Vague claims about racist systems, suspicious speculation about motives and toxic group thinking are insane and help nobody, regardless of whatever virtuous robes those practices may be dressed in.

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Some general parallels

- -Overarching, all-explaining framework
- -Built on speculation
- -Selective skepticism and use of sources
- -Interpreting everything in light of the theory
- -Abundant use of logical fallacies
- -Leaping to conclusions based on kernels of truth
- -Alleged culprits are guilty until proven innocent
- -Innocence can never be proven; theory is unfalsifiable

Examples of more specific parallels

The points of comparison capture literal quotes, paraphrases or the gist of claims encountered in (primary) sources describing, defending, advocating and/or displaying (the tenets of) CRT. For a few of the more eyebrow-raising points, examples are given in footnotes (although it's hard to determine what exactly should be considered surprising after spending hours consuming CRT-related sources). For accuracy, it should be mentioned that a few of the parallels noted may be unfair with regard to traditional conspiracy theories.

Characteristic	Traditional conspiracy theory (specific example: covid-19 theories)	Critical Race Theory
Overarching framework that explains everything	The covid-19-pandemic was planned by the globalist elites who want to control the world, reset the global economy, and make us slaves of the new world order by injecting us with DNA-changing vaccines and microchips	Everything in society is the result of a power struggle between oppressors and the oppressed; In the current situation, everything is the result of a "system" designed to favor whites
Feigned rationality: adherents may believe there's strong evidence, but most important ingredient of the faith is actually speculation	Scrutinize a random conspiracy theory	Funny yet sad example: The Woke Temple (@WokeTemple) / Twitter
Feigned nuance	"We aren't crazies who believe the earth is flat"	"Critical Race Theorists don't argue that all whites are inherently evil or that everything is racist"
Jumping to conclusions	"There is a biological lab located in Wuhan! Also, there was a guy working there who worked with coronaviruses when studying the West!"	"Since race is a social construct but there are real disparities between blacks and whites, racism must be what drives and explains the racial differences"
Denial is proof	"The fact that X denies involvement with the conspiracy theory shows there's more going on"	"The fact that you're denying white fragility is evidence you're suffering from white fragility"
Disagreement shows you're duped or evil	"You only disagree because you're a blind sheep following the masses/you only disagree because you're part of the conspiracy"	"You disagree because you've internalized whiteness/you disagree because of white fragility and don't want to admit you're part of the oppressive system"
Contradicting evidence is incorporated into the overarching framework (Unfalsifiability)	"Mike Pence got a vaccination live on tv. That shows he's also part of the conspiracy. It's obviously fake."	"The fact that you adopted black children doesn't show you're not racist. It could mean you only want to convince yourself you're not/you think

		you have to civilize those "savages""1
Damned if you do and damned if you don't	"If the vaccine is so safe, why don't they get it live on tv?"	"When whites support black advancement it is only because of white self-interest" ("interest convergence"); "White savior complex"
Everything is somehow tied to the conspiracy theory	"The US raised interest rates which will destroy the European economy so the Great Reset can move further"	"African Americans attacking Asian Americans is a result of white supremacy" ² ; "Climate change is a result of white supremacy" ³
Some specific but vaguely defined group is the culprit and is ascribed a disproportionate amount of power	"The globalists"; "The elites"	"Whites"; "White nationalists"; "White supremacists"
That group has some individual representatives.	Bill Gates, George Soros, Klaus Schwab, etc.	Richard Spencer, Ben Shapiro, Donald Trump, etc.
There is a specific victim group	The "normal" citizens	Blacks
Culprits create beliefs that hurt	"The globalists want you to	"Whites spread beliefs to make
victims	believe you're dependent	blacks believe they're inferior
	upon the government to	to whites"
	survive the pandemic"	
Disease you need to be cured	"Blind trust in media and	"Whiteness"
of	government"	
Selective use of evidence	Ignoring the fact that "predictions" of the pandemic by alleged culprits/accomplices only partially line up with	Focusing on the situation of blacks but ignoring the flourishing of minorities such as Asians and Jews
	reality	
Questionable anecdotal evidence	"I have an acquaintance who works in a hospital and told me they have to falsely label deaths as resulting from covid."	"Lived experiences"
Rejecting evidence	If it came through an official institution of canal, it's per definition distrusted because it's part of the conspiracy	"The views of this black person don't count because they reflect internalized whiteness"
Addressing real problems that can be addressed without the theory	Irresponsible government behavior	Racial disparities/racism in society
Disagreement with ideas/methods is disagreement with cause	"So you want people to be slaves of a world government"	"So you're against racial/social justice"

¹ <u>Ibram X. Kendi op Twitter: "Some White colonizers "adopted" Black children. They "civilized" these "savage" children in the "superior" ways of White people, while using them as props in their lifelong pictures of denial, while cutting the biological parents of these children out of the picture of humanity." / Twitter</u>

² White supremacy is the root of all race-related violence in the US (theconversation.com)

³ How White Supremacy Caused the Climate Crisis (earthisland.org)

Using real examples from the	"There were real conspiracies	"There was real systemic
past to back up bizarre	in the past. Therefore, this	racism in the past. Therefore,
theories	theory isn't as crazy as you	this theory isn't as crazy as you
	think"	think"
Black/white thinking	"You criticize weaknesses in	Speaks for itself 😉
	my argument? Keep on blindly	_
	believing anything the	
	government tells you."	
Call it "scholarship"	"I've done research!"	"This is highly sophisticated
		and intellectually rigorous"4
Reject criticism by claiming	"You don't know the theory	"You don't understand CRT
ignorance on the critic's part	well enough to criticize it"	well enough to criticize it"
Motivation	"We only want people to hear	"We only want to bring racial
	the truth"	justice"
Result	Discord, division and confusion	Discord, division and confusion

Critical Race Theory is, in reality, Conspiratorial Race Theory

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⁴ Why Is Critical Race Theory? - SOME MORE NEWS - YouTube

The 7 tenets of CRT according to Harper, Patton & Wooden applied to conspiracy theories

(source: What is Critical Race Theory? - Neil Shenvi - Apologetics (shenviapologetics.com))

CRT tenets	Applied to conspiracy theories
[Tenet 1:]Racism is a normal part of American	Conspiracies by the elites/globalists are a
life , often lacking the ability to be distinctively	normal part of this world, they only need to be
recognized A CRT lens unveils the various	recognized. A critical lens unveils the various
forms in which racism continually manifests	forms in which conspiracies manifest
itself, despite espoused institutional values	themselves, despite alleged institutions meant
regarding equity and social justice.	to safeguard our health, safety and privacy.
[Tenet 2:] [Ideas like] liberalism, neutrality,	Ideas like liberalism, neutrality, objectivity,
objectivity, colorblindness, and meritocracy	colorblindness, and meritocracy camouflage
camouflage [how] racial advantage propels the	how globalist conspiracies propel the self-
self-interests, power, and privileges of the	interests, power, and privileges of the
dominant group. [Tenet 3:] CRT gives voice to the unique	conspiring group. We at (somecrazywebsite.com) give voice to
perspectives and lived experiences of people of	the unique perspectives of critical
color CRT uses counternarratives as a way to	experts/survivors with refound memories of
highlight discrimination, offer racially different	being molested by high-placed officials (as
interpretations of policy, and challenge the	happened here in the Netherlands)
universality of assumptions made about people	to highlight the ways the globalist elites are
of color.	taking control of our society.
[Tenet 4:] CRT recognizes interest-convergence,	We recognize the interest-convergence, the
the process whereby the white power structure	process whereby the globalist power structure
'will tolerate or encourage racial advances for	'will tolerate or encourage democratic advances
Blacks only when they also promote white self-	for society/normal people only when they also
interests'.	promote globalist self-interests'.
[Tenet 5:] Revisionist History is another tenet of	Revisionist History is another tenet of
CRT [which] suggests that American history be	conspiracy theories which suggests that
closely scrutinized and reinterpreted as opposed	American history be closely scrutinized and
to being accepted at face value and truth.	reinterpreted as opposed to being accepted at
	face value and truth.
	(Example: conspiracy theories (perhaps
	containing some truth) that America was more
(T. +C.1 COT 1 D. + D. +	or less founded by secret societies.)
[Tenet 6:] CRT also relies on Racial Realists, or	Conspiracy theories also rely on Conspiratorial
individuals who not only recognize race as a	Realists, or individuals who not only recognize
social construct, but also realize that 'racism is	the crisis (e.g., corona pandemic) as staged, but
a means by which society allocates privilege	also realize that the measures and the
and status.'	acceptance thereof are means by which the conspirators allocate privilege and status to
	citizens based on their obedience.
[Tenet 7:] CRT critiques [claims that]:	We at (somecrazywebsite.com) critique the
(a) [colorblindness] will eliminate racism; (b)	claims that: (a) neutral action against injustice
racism is a matter of individuals, not systems ;	in general will eliminate evil conspiracies; (b)
and (c) one can fight racism without paying	conspiracies are a matter of individuals, not
attention to sexism, homophobia, economic	vaguely defined groups; and (c) one can fight
exploitation , and other forms of oppression or	this particular conspiracy without buying into
injustice	the other crazy theories we publish at this
	website, which are all linked to each other.