**PSYC 4270 – Forensic Psychology   
Classwork Thursday, 4th  
  
Submitted by:   
Ayesha Sultana   
1719418**

The incident of George Floyd was not done on accident, the video clearly shows Chauvin held his knee against Floyd’s neck for more than 8mins, he did not let go even after Floyd pleaded that he could not breathe. This act was definitely a hate crime and an abuse of power. The autopsy reports initially given said that Floyd had drugs in his system which caused his death, this clearly was forged to save the officers involved, thus, letting white supremacy prevail, this is a huge flaw in the criminal justice system, racial bias should not exist and officers should not be above the law. Later autopsies revealed that Floyd, in fact, died due to asphyxiation caused from Chauvin’s knee pressing his neck (Melinek, 2020). All the officers deserve to be on death row for wrongfully killing an innocent citizen with no concrete evidence. The fact that racism still exists at this day and age is sickening and should be put an end to. The color of a skin does not determine a person’s character. If there was a white person in the place of George Floyd he would have been arrested, let alone be killed or any of the heinous crime committed against black people.

Psychological Perspective.

* It is evident there is racial bias involved in USA’s criminal justice system. Blacks and Latinos were twice as likely to be stopped and searched in their vehicles as white people (Langton & Durose, 2013; Smith, 2015; Simoiu, Corvie-Davies & Goel, 2017). Black people are also over represented in homicides and other crimes than any other race (Howitt, 2018). This racial bias played a role in Chauvin and the other officers’ behavior.
* Illusory correlation was also in play, Chauvin and the other officer assumed that race and crime were related.
* It also is understood that prejudice definitely played a role in this.
* Lack of empathy and psychic equivalence as defined by Fonagy et al. (2002) which is when an individual equates their subjective thought with objective reality.

REFERENCES

**Video of George Floyd in Final Moments**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FMGUAHBFmjk&bpctr=1591569259>

Duff, S. (2016). Dennis Howitt, *Introduction to Forensic and Criminal Psychology*. Psychology Learning & Teaching, 15(1), 115–116. https://doi.org/10.1177/1475725715622172

Fonagy, P., Gergley, G., Jurist E. & Target, M. (2002). *Affect Regulation, Mentalization, and the Development of Self.* Other Press

Langton, L., Matthew D. R., Bureau of Justice Statistics (2013). *Police Behavior During Traffic And Street Stops, 2011*. U.S. Department of Justice.

Melinek, J. (2020). *Forensic Pathologist Breaks Down George Floyd's Death*. MedPage Today.   
 Retrieved from <https://www.medpagetoday.com/blogs/working-stiff/86913>.

Silard, A. (2020). *An Empathy Crisis In America.* Psychology Today.   
Retrieved from [https://www.psychologytoday.com/intl/blog/the-art-living-  
free/202006/empathy-crisis-in-america](https://www.psychologytoday.com/intl/blog/the-art-living-free/202006/empathy-crisis-in-america).

Simoiu, C. & Corbett-Davies, S. & Goel, S.. (2017). *The problem of infra-marginality in outcome tests for discrimination*. The Annals of Applied Statistics. 11. 1193-1216. 10.1214/17-AOAS1058. Retrieved from <https://arxiv.org/pdf/1607.05376.pdf>.

Smith, T. B. G. (2015). *Pull Over Five things to remember when you see the blue lights*. The Post and Courier, Retrieved from <https://www.postandcourier.com/archives/pull-over-five-things-to-remember-when-you-see-the/article_c898fb10-8905-5eba-ba01-7b2d15312fb4.html>.