

Piers Morgan and Munroe Bergdorf

transcript: Good Morning Britain Sept '17

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BAvFam1eJEQ&t=19s&ab_channel=GoodMorningBritain

Susanna 1 you must have known
2 when you wrote your very public [facebook post=
Munroe 3 [uhuh.
Susanna 4 =just how sensitive [those words were going to be um=
Munroe 5 [uhuh.
Susanna 6 =i don't have the energy to talk about
7 the racial violence of white people[=
Munroe 8 [mhmm.
Susanna 9 =um most of you refuse to acknowledge
10 your existence privilege and success as a race is built
11 on the backs blood and death of people of color[=
Munroe 12 [mhmm.
Susanna 13 =um do you think that all white people are racist
Munroe 14 i don't think that all white people are by nature racist
15 um from conception to birth
16 i think that we are all the same um
17 but we need to speak about how we're socialized as a people
18 and er my resp- my um post was based on socialization
19 and racism as a structure
20 um I think as a society we're just taught certain things
21 we're taught that men are superior to women
22 we're taught that women are meant to be submissive
23 we're told that gay people are meant to be ashamed of their sexuality
24 but it doesn't mean that this is how things need to be
Susanna 25 do you think all people
26 all white people are responsible for that
27 or [believe that or?
Munroe 28 [um I don't think that all white people believe it no
29 i think that there is cases um
30 well I mean there's loads of allies I mean
31 you don't need to think this way

32 and it takes actively dismantling racism to be an ally
 33 because if you're not doing anything then how are you helping racism

Piers 34 so you s- you said uh when you explained about this
 35 you said white people are racist due to socialization
 36 in the same way that men are socialized to be sexist[=

Munroe 37 [uhuh.

Piers 38 =and heterosexual people are socialized to be homophobic so[=

Munroe 39 [yes.

Piers 40 =I'm a white straight male guy[=

Munroe 41 [it's not about you though-

Piers 42 =so basically I'm like I'm like enemy number one[=

Munroe 43 [no

Piers 44 =so I'm a racist sexist homophobe
 45 by your [logic.

Munroe 46 [well yeah sexist yes but I [wouldn't-

Piers 47 [I'm not sexist

Munroe 48 some of the things [you say (...)-

Piers 49 [and I'm not racist
 50 and I'm not a homophobe
 51 so who are you with the greatest of respect to you
 52 who are you to say that every
 53 straight white guy [in the world is a-

Munroe 54 [I did not say that.

Piers 55 well you did you said white people are racist
 56 due [to socialization=

Munroe 57 [I just-

Piers 58 =in the same way that men are socialized to be sexist
 59 heterosexual people are socialized to be homophobic
 60 you are calling straight white guys like me
 61 a series of offensive stereotypical labels
 62 [which I find I find very offensive.

Munroe 63 [and this is where there's a problem-
 64 okay this is why there's a problem
 65 because you're taking it [personally.

Piers 66 [there is a problem
 67 I am taking it personally
 68 [yes.

Munroe 69 [it isn't about [you though Piers.

Piers 70 [when you say all white people are racist
71 as a white person [i find that offensive.

Munroe 72 [please let me speak
73 please let me speak instead of speaking over me

Piers 74 the floor is yours

Munroe 75 okay so basically instead of taking it personally
76 please think about how to be part of the solution
77 [rather than the problem.

Piers 78 [why don't you think about being part of the solution

Munroe 79 I am part of the [solution.

Piers 80 [you're not
81 you're causing more division[=

Munroe 82 [I'm not causing more division

Piers 83 =you you're basically causing more division[=

Munroe 84 [Piers, by speaking about-

Piers 85 =by- by [telling all white people they're racist.

Munroe 86 [Piers please let me speak Piers let me speak
87 by talking about racism is not causing a divide
88 there's a divide anyway
89 we need to be speaking about what the s-
90 what the root of racism what the root of sexism is
91 and sexism doesn't come from women
92 so of course it's caused by men
93 this is a social [contract.

Piers 94 [you don't think women can be sexist

Munroe 95 i don't think that women can enforce uh [misogyny like-

Piers 96 [what a load of nonsense.

Munroe 97 no because it's all[-

Piers 98 [you don't think any women
99 can be [sexist.

Munroe 100 [women don't uphold the patriarchy Piers
101 that is [not the case.

Piers 102 [uphold the what

Munroe 103 the [patriarchy.

Piers 104 [what's that

Munroe 105 you don't know what the [patriarchy is?

Piers 106 [i do but explain it

Munroe 107 the patriarchy is basically a structure that puts men at the top of power=

Piers 108 =mm=

Munroe 109 =so [it's it's not women that enforce the patriarchy=

Piers 110 [the five most- the five-

Munroe 111 =['cause women don't have anything to err-

Piers 112 [the five most powerf- the five most
113 powerful people in this country currently are women
114 how does that how does that sit with your patriarchy
115 [they are.

Munroe 116 [so you're saying that the patriarchy doesn't exist

Piers 117 I'm saying the five most powerful people in britain are women
118 so this idea that men still rule the entire planet
119 [and are these evil creatures to be removed from power=

Munroe 120 [so you're sayng that the patriarchy doesn't exist

Piers 121 =[doesn't really stack up with the facts.

Munroe 122 [you can say that the patriarchy doesn't exist Piers
123 but the patriarchy exists [it's a fact.

Piers 124 [my- my point about this is
125 there are of course there are serious
126 debates to be had about racism
127 but my god the world has moved and moved fast
128 [from where it used to be I don't-

Munroe 129 [Piers you are part of the problem [if you think this=

Piers 130 [I'm not part of the problem.

Munroe 131 =you are part of the problem Piers
132 because you are denying my lived experience
133 [I spoke-

Piers 134 [what d'you mean I'm d- what d'y- what what d'you mean I'm deny-
135 I'm not denying [you anything!

Munroe 136 [you're speaking over me for one

Piers 137 well no now you're playing your old trick of being the victim
138 and you played that very- you
139 you immediately came out after you were fired
140 with all the stuff about all the insults you've had and so on and so on
141 of course you're going to get insulted

142 I don't agree with the way they've insulted you
 143 but when you call every white person racist
 144 [and say we're all-
 Munroe 145 [Piers my mother's wor- my moth- my mother's words.
 Piers 146 fine well when you say
 147 i don't have the energy to talk about
 148 the racial violence of white people anymore
 149 yes all white people
 150 when you call us a bunch of violent racists
 151 [all of us=
 Munroe 152 [where does slavery come from?
 Piers 153 =all of us
 154 we are going to get annoyed
 Munroe 155 yeah of course but look at the responses that I got that I've got
 156 how dare you call us racist you black
 157 how dare you call [us racist=
 Piers 158 [no I said I don't agr-
 Munroe 159 =go back to the trees[=
 Piers 160 [no you can al- wha- of course you-
 Munroe 161 =that [says it all people don't know what racism is=
 Piers 162 [of course you can find-
 Munroe 163 =[we're not taught about racism=
 Piers 164 [of- of course you can-
 Munroe 165 =no Piers let me speak [I came in here to-
 Piers 166 [you can find abusive responses-
 Munroe 167 Piers I came in here to speak
 168 I came in here to speak [Piers-
 Piers 169 [you did and I came in
 170 and I also wanted you in here
 171 so that I could look you in the eye
 172 and say I think what you said was [(...)-
 Munroe 173 [so you're
 174 making it about you [Piers-
 Piers 175 [no what it's my show
 176 along with [Susanna.
 Munroe 177 [okay why don't you just sit here
 178 and talk for five minutes then

179 and I just sat- [sit here-

Piers 180 [uh you've done plenty of talking Munroe
 181 I've been watching your interviews
 182 I want you to explain why we shouldn't be offended
 183 as white people
 184 by your sentence that all white people
 185 all white people are party to racial violence

Munroe 186 because socialization has placed
 187 all white people in a certain privilege
 188 that means that if you are not dismantling racism
 189 or helping to dismantle racism
 190 then you are part of the problem
 191 because you that makes you complicit
 192 you need to actively work with people of color
 193 to put diversity which this campaign was about
 194 into place and when L'oreal fires me
 195 for speaking about the origins of racism
 196 then that goes completely against what diversity is
 197 because the reason why we need diversity is
 198 because we have racism [in society.

Piers 199 [you don't think any white people
 200 on the planet are currently doing what you've just suggested

Munroe 201 I didn't say that

Piers 202 you by implication when you say
 203 [all white people that is what you're saying.

Munroe 204 [I'm talking about a structure
 205 I'm talking about a structure that all white people sit on
 206 I'm talking about society I'm not talking about
 207 literally every single white person
 208 I'm talking about society and
 209 all white people exist within that structure

Susanna 210 well I'm I'm asking if you
 211 regret the form of words
 212 because of the [way they come across?

Munroe 213 [no I don't refr- regret the form of words
 214 i mean I'm an activist and at the end of the day
 215 activists aren't there to go and say a bunch of stuff
 216 that people like
 217 we are there to call things out and to make change
 218 and yes I said all white people because
 219 all white people have access to the privileges
 220 um that are-

221 [that come out of colonialism and slavery=

Piers 222 [really really you think that the y-

Munroe 223 =[yes!

Piers 224 [you think you think the hundreds of thousands
225 of people on food banks in this country
226 white people amongst them
227 are are [privileged, do you?

Munroe 228 [they have more count
229 they have more [privileges-

Piers 230 [more privileges than you

Munroe 231 i did not say that I did [not say that-

Piers 232 [a wealthy supermodel

Munroe 233 i did not- uh please show me my bank account

Piers 234 all right you'll be you'll make a lot of money out of this so
235 let me ask you again do you think that
236 white people on food banks in this country
237 are more or less privileged than you

Munroe 238 I did not say that Piers I said[-

Piers 239 [you just implied that
240 you said that [all white people had privileges.

Munroe 241 [no Piers-
242 let me speak please I'm saying that if a person is at th-
243 the food banks and their white
244 and there's their counterpart
245 and that counterpart is black
246 that white person has more of a chance of getting out that situation
247 than their black [counterpart.

Piers 248 [why where's the evidence for that

Munroe 249 because of white privilege
250 [they have-

Piers 251 [really

Munroe 252 white people have more access to
253 home- [to housing, to credit-

Piers 254 [so so- poor white people just to clarify
255 poor white people have a better chance in Britain
256 of getting out of their poverty than
257 than poor black [people?

Munroe 258 [yes.

Piers 259 all of them

Munroe 260 i feel like I'm up against a wall with your Piers[-

Piers 261 [no you're not
262 what you're up against is somebody challenging you
263 on your public statements=

Munroe 264 =yes=

Piers 265 which you've managed to turn into a massive great story
266 of your poor victimhood
267 and I'm telling you
268 now you're sitting here that I think when you say
269 all white people are racially violent=

Munroe 270 =mm=

Piers 271 =that is deeply offensive and I think when you then clarify
272 [and say that straight=

Munroe 273 [i think that it's deeply offensive that history is-

Piers 274 =straight white guys are basically all sexist homophobes
275 and racially violent[=

Munroe 276 [I did not(...)-

Piers 277 =i as a straight white guy
278 who's not remotely racist get very offended by that

Munroe 279 and this is why there's a problem
280 because you take it [personally.

Piers 281 [there is a problem
282 because I do take it personally [yes.

Munroe 283 [it isn't a personal attack

Piers 284 of course it is

Munroe 285 it's not a personal attack Piers
286 [and this is why we are not gonna get=

Piers 287 [you've attacked every white person in the world

Munroe 288 =this is why aren't gonna get anywhere with racism because
289 [people with extreme pri- privilege like yourself=

Piers 290 [well we won't when you keep inflaming people-

Munroe 291 =can't see past it and want to attack people
292 when they talk about their lived experience

Piers 293 =mm=

Munroe 294 i am speaking[-

Piers 295 [we've all had lived experiences

Munroe 296 [well obviously because we're all living Piers-

Piers 297 [good bad and ugly all of us right
 298 I I resent the idea that all
 299 white people in this modern era
 300 are automatically more privileged
 301 than all black people
 302 I don't think that's right anymore
 303 i think it's a complete mischaracterization
 304 of the work that's been done to counter racism around the world
 305 and I think when you as a very high profile
 306 transgender model get this amazing opportunity
 307 to have a platform at L'oreal the first thing you do
 308 I I (agree the [timing from before)=

Munroe 309 [it was not the first thing I did Piers

Piers 310 =alright but it ca- the first thing that [comes out-

Munroe 311 [the timeline was completely [(wrong)-

Piers 312 [right
 313 but this is a [public Facebook post-

Munroe 314 [it came out because it was uh
 315 [it was an attack on my character=

Piers 316 [I don't- alright-

Munroe 317 =[and it was taken out of context.

Piers 318 [I don't unders- I d- I-
 319 i get it I just said that
 320 but I don't understand how I'm saying
 321 that all white people are racially violent
 322 helps anyone in the race debate that's my point

Munroe 323 okay well we need to speak about why um
 324 the syllabus is so white
 325 why we are not taught about the violence of slavery in schools
 326 why aren't we aren't talk about the violence of um colonialism
 327 why we're not taught about the violence of the empire
 328 we are taught a whitewashed history
 329 kids are not taught about black history in the same way
 330 that they are taught about white [history.

Piers 331 [then why don't you say that

Munroe 332 i did [i did!

Piers 333 [yeah but that- but yeah but

334 that's not what got the headlines [what-
 Munroe 335 [no because Piers
 336 it got [taken out of context=
 Piers 337 [had you focussed- yeah b- Munroe-
 Munroe 338 =someone screenshotted it and sold the story
 339 to the Daily [Mail.
 Piers 340 [had you focused on why we should have
 341 more historical knowledge
 342 [of slavery and issues like that-
 Munroe 343 [Piers I did and this is what I'm saying
 344 the bookends got taken out
 Piers 345 well the bookends were so inflammatory and offensive
 346 of course they got [taken out.
 Munroe 347 [no they didn't get get [taken out.
 Piers 348 [and blaming the daily mail
 349 for what you said is ridiculous
 Munroe 350 well of course you would say that Piers
 351 because you work for the Daily Mail
 Piers 352 yes I work for them but if they were wrong
 353 I would also say they're wrong
 354 I've just quoted you back directly
 355 what you actually posted
 356 [and don't pretend-
 Munroe 357 [Piers you didn't
 358 because it was taken out of context
 359 you missed out the two bits
 360 that you haven't [seen.
 Piers 361 [I'm not sure how you take out of context
 362 that all white people are
 363 guilty of racial [violence.
 Munroe 364 it's basic socialization and racial theory Piers
 365 look it up
 Susanna 366 it has been fascinating watching the debate
 367 thanks so much for joining us [Munroe Bergdorf
 Munroe 368 [welcome.

END OF TRANSCRIPT

Conventions:

- (I don't) - Brackets mark speech that is not clearly intelligible...
- (...) - ...or intelligible at all
- [- Indicates the start of an 'overlap segment'

Overlap segments come in pairs – an 'interrupted' and an 'interruption' segment:

- . ! ? - Any of these 'stops' at the end of an 'interrupted' segment indicate that the speaker seems to complete their speech unit before they are interrupted. At the end of an 'interruption' segment, they indicate that the speaker seems to provide a minimal response rather than intending to interrupt.
- - A hyphen indicates that a speaker seems to stop before their speech unit is complete. At the end of an overlap segment this indicates that a speaker was either 'successfully interrupted' or produced an 'unsuccessful interruption'
- = - An equals sign links two lines together, usually from one speaker to themselves again two lines later to show that they continue to speak through an interruption. Equals signs are also used to mark minimal responses which don't overlap.

Any punctuation found outside of an overlap segment is used only to aid legibility and as such, is not subject to strict customs.

Line breaks loosely reflect speech units, but this guideline is often violated to prioritise the alignment of simultaneous speech.