English educators must interrogate acts of physical and linguistic violence against Black and Latinx youth and take these experiences into consideration when shaping curricula. Drawing on various ethnographic research projects in Los Angeles and Northern California, Martinez argues that English teachers can provide a space for youth to make sense of their racialized experiences. His talk will highlight the marginal treatment of Black and Latinx languages in English classrooms and demonstrate the relationship between racialized physical violence against Black and Latinx communities and the linguistic violence many Black and Latinx youth face in English classrooms. Building on emerging solidarity movements between Black and Latinx activists and communities, Martinez will illustrate how this renewed sense of solidarity can be leveraged to incite transformative learning experiences for these youths. Martinez will provide recommendations for how a language of solidarity framework can take place in all English classrooms.

With introduction provided by Drs. April Baker-Bell, Lamar Johnson, and Tamara Butler: “Teaching in the Wake of Racial Violence,” a special issue of English Education.