Theories of Race and Ethnicity

How have research agendas on race and ethnicity changed over the past two decades, and what new developments have emerged? *Theories of Race and Ethnicity* provides a comprehensive and cutting-edge collection of theoretically grounded and empirically informed chapters. It covers a range of key issues in race and ethnicity studies, such as genetics and race, post-race debates, racial eliminativism and the legacy of Barack Obama and mixed race identities. The contributions are by leading writers covering a range of perspectives employed in studying ethnicity and race, including critical race feminism, critical rationalism, psychoanalysis, performativity, whiteness studies and sexuality. Written in an authoritative yet accessible style, this volume is suitable for researchers and advanced students, offering scholars a survey of the state of the art in the literature and students an overview of the field.

**Karim Murji** is based in the Department of Sociology at the Open University.

**John Solomos** is Professor of Sociology at the University of Warwick, where he is also head of department.
Theories of Race and Ethnicity

Contemporary Debates and Perspectives

Edited by

Karim Murji and John Solomos
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Editors

Karim Murji is based in the Department of Sociology at the Open University, United Kingdom, where he has contributed to a wide range of inter-disciplinary teaching in the social sciences. He has more than 80 publications in cultural and policy studies of ethnicity and racism and of criminology. He has edited two journal special issues, most recently, with Gargi Bhattacharyya, a special issue of Ethnic and Racial Studies on ‘Race Critical Public Scholarship’ (vol. 36, no. 9, 2013). With John Solomos, he is the editor of Racialization: Studies in Theory and Practice (2005). He is an editor of the journal Sociology.

John Solomos is professor and head of the Department of Sociology at the University of Warwick. He has researched and written widely on the history and contemporary forms of race and ethnic relations in Britain, theories of race and racism, the politics of race, equal opportunity policies, multiculturalism and social policy, race and football, and racist movements and ideas. His most recent book is Transnational Families: Ethnicities, Identities and Social Capital (with Harry Goulbourne, Tracey Reynolds and Elisabetta Zontini, 2010). He has also co-edited The Sage Handbook of Race and Ethnic Studies (with Patricia Hill Collins, 2010), Race and Ethnicity in the 21st Century (with Alice Bloch, 2010) and Theories of Race and Racism: A Reader (with Les Back, 2nd edn, 2009). He is joint editor with Martin Bulmer of the international journal Ethnic and Racial Studies.

Other contributors

Michael Banton is Professor Emeritus of Sociology at the University of Bristol. He taught social anthropology at the University of Edinburgh, 1954–65; political science at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 1962–63; and sociology at the University of Bristol, 1965–92. From 1986 to 2001, he was a member of the United Nations

**Leah Bassel** is a New Blood Lecturer in Sociology at the University of Leicester. Her research interests include the political sociology of gender, migration, race and citizenship and intersectionality. She is the author of *Refugee Women: Beyond Gender versus Culture* (2012), and her work has also been published in journals, including *Politics and Gender*, *Ethnicities*, *Government and Opposition* and *French Politics*. She is an assistant editor of the journal *Citizenship Studies*.


**Éric Fassin** is professor of sociology in the Department of Political Science and the Gender Studies programme at Paris 8 University (after 18 years at the École Normale Supérieure and 5 at New York University), affiliated with the research centre IRIS (CNRS/EHESS). His work
focuses on contemporary sexual and racial politics in France and the United States and their intersections (in particular concerning immigration in Europe). He is frequently involved in French public debates on issues which his work addresses – from gay marriage and gender parity to the politics of immigration and race. He is the author of Le sexe politique (2009) and co-author (with the collective Cette France-là) of four volumes on French immigration policies (2008–12). He co-edited De la question sociale à la question raciale? (2006). His latest book is Démocratie précaire. Chroniques de la déraison d’État (2012). He is currently at work on Actualité d’Aimé Césaire and The Empire of Sexual Democracy.

CHARLES A. GALLAGHER is professor and chair of the Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice at La Salle University in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA. His research focuses on social inequality, race relations and immigration, and he has published more than 50 articles, reviews and books on these topics. His scholarship examines the ways in which the media, state policy and popular culture construct, shape and disseminate ideas of race and social mobility. His most recent books include Being Brown in Dixie: Race, Ethnicity and Latino Immigration in the New South (with Cameron Lippard, 2011) and Retheorizing Race and Whiteness in the 21st Century (with France Winddance Twine, 2012). As a nationally recognised expert on race and social inequality, Professor Gallagher has given more than 50 talks on these topics around the United States and is a frequent media source for these topics, having appeared in the press, on television and in radio interviews more than 80 times. He is currently doing comparative research on whites’ attitudes on immigration policy in the United Kingdom and the USA.

DAVID THEO GOLDBERG is director of the system-wide University of California Humanities Research Institute and executive director of the MacArthur–UCI Research Hub in Digital Media and Learning, the international centre coordinating all research for the MacArthur Foundation initiative in connected learning. He is a professor in comparative literature, in anthropology and in criminology, law and society at the University of California, Irvine. He has written extensively on digital media’s impact on higher education, race and racism, law and society and critical theory. His recent books include The Threat of Race (2009) and The Future of Thinking (with Cathy Davidson, 2010).

MATTHEW W. HUGHEY earned his doctorate in sociology from the University of Virginia and is currently associate professor of sociology.
Notes on contributors

at the University of Connecticut. A scholar of racial identity formation, racialised organisations and the intersection of race and the mass media, Hughey has published an array of scholarly articles and several books, including The White Savior Film: Content, Critics and Consumption (2014), White Bound: Nationalists, Antiracists and the Shared Meanings of Race (2012) and The Obamas and a (Post) Racial America? (2011).

Sandra Soo-Jin Lee is a medical anthropologist at the Center for Biomedical Ethics and a faculty affiliate in the Science, Technology and Society programme at Stanford University, whose research focuses on the sociocultural dimensions and ethical issues of emerging genomic technologies and their translation into biomedical practice. She is co-editor of Revisiting Race in a Genomic Age (with Barbara A. Konig and Sarah S. Richardson, 2008) and is currently writing a book that examines modern American values in the context of the translation of human genetic variation research. She is the recipient of several National Institutes of Health grant awards, including for her current project, ‘Social networking and personal genomics: implications for health research’ (grant R01HG005086-01), which examines public interpretation of personal genetic information and sharing practices. She received her undergraduate degree in human biology from Stanford University and her doctorate in medical anthropology from the University of California, Berkeley and San Francisco Joint Program.

Victor E. Ray is a doctoral candidate in sociology at Duke University and an American Sociological Association Minority Fellow. His work has appeared in a number of journals, including the Journal of African American Studies, the Journal of Marriage and Family and Contexts. His dissertation research, supported by the Ford Foundation and the National Science Foundation, focuses on how race and gender shape the transition to civilian life for veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan conflicts. Using qualitative interviews, he explores how the possible mental health effects of life in a combat zone affect the daily lives of veterans as they reintegrate into work and family.

Miri Song is professor of sociology at the University of Kent. Her research interests include race and racisms, ethnic identity, mixed race and second-generation integration. She is currently working on a Leverhulme Trust-funded project on the ways in which multiracial parents identify and raise their children in Britain. She is the author of Helping Out: Children’s Labor in Ethnic Businesses (1999), Choosing Ethnic Identity (2003) and Mixed Race Identities (with Peter Aspinall, 2013).
Brett St Louis is senior lecturer in sociology at Goldsmiths, University of London. He is the author of *Rethinking Race, Politics and Poetics: C. L. R. James’ Critique of Modernity* (2007). He is currently writing a book on racial eliminativism.

Shirley Anne Tate is associate professor in race and culture in the School of Sociology and Social Policy at the University of Leeds. Her research focuses particularly on the body, affect, work, ‘race’ performativity, ‘mixed race’ and post-coloniality. She has published widely in these areas in both the United Kingdom and Europe, and her books *Black Skins, Black Masks: Hybridity, Dialogism, Performativity* (2005) and *Black Beauty: Aesthetics, Stylization, Politics* (2009) take up these preoccupations.

Adrien K. Wing is the Bessie Dutton Murray Distinguished Professor of Law at the University of Iowa College of Law, where she has taught since 1987. Author of more than 100 publications, she is the editor of *Critical Race Feminism* (2003) and *Global Critical Race Feminism: An International Reader* (2000). Her research focuses on the intersection of race/ethnicity and gender, specifically the legal rights of women of colour. Her regional interests include the Middle East, Africa and black America.
Preface

The process of developing and seeing an edited collection such as this one through to publication is inevitably longer than planned and sometimes tortuous. We started talking about the project initially when we felt that there was a need for more sustained discussion of the changing research agendas on race and ethnic relations that have emerged over the past two decades or so. As active participants in some of the debates, we had some understanding of key facets of these new agendas, but we saw a need for a collection of original chapters that explored key issues in more depth. It is with this overarching concern in mind that we started the process of bringing together the various contributions that make up this collection. As we talked, we felt that there were certain key areas of debate that have emerged over the past 20 years or more that we wanted to represent in this collection, and we have grouped these chapters in Part I. We also wanted to include a wide range of chapters that reflected developments within specific fields of scholarship; these are grouped together in Part II. We recognise that some themes and issues cannot be covered within the confines of a collection such as this one. This is partly why we have decided to include two substantive chapters by ourselves, as editors, which work both to provide the background to the issues that are covered in the book and to take a look forward at likely trends and developments in the future. We hope that the 15 chapters that make up this collection can help to encourage further debate and reflection at a time when questions about race and racism seem likely to continue to influence both political discourses and actions in civil society.

As editors, we are grateful to all the authors who have stuck with the project from the beginning. Without the hard work of the various authors, such a project would not be possible. We have also accumulated a number of debts for support, advice and intellectual stimulation during the time we have been working on this collection. In alphabetical order, we would like to say thank you to a number of people who have discussed this with us and encouraged us along the way: Claire Alexander, Les Back, Michael Banton, Gargi Bhattacharyya, Alice Bloch, Martin
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KARIM MURJI
Open University

JOHN SOLOMOS
University of Warwick