

PRIVATE RACISM

Usually, when we discuss racial injustice, we discuss racism in our public or political life. This means that we often focus on how the state discriminates on the basis of race in its application and enforcement of laws and policies. This book draws on the synergy of political theory and civil rights law to expand the boundary of racial justice and consider the way in which racial discrimination happens outside the governmental or public sphere. “Private racism” is about recognizing that racial injustice also occurs in our private lives, including the television and movie industry, cyberspace, our intimate and sexual lives, and the reproductive market. Professor Sonu Bedi argues that private racism is wrong, enlarging the boundary of justice in a way that is also consistent with our Constitution. A more just society is one that seeks to address rather than ignore this less visible form of racism.

Sonu Bedi is the Joel Parker 1811 Professor in Law and Political Science, Associate Professor of Government, and the Hans '80 and Kate Morris Director of the Ethics Institute at Dartmouth College. He has published three books: *Political Contingency* (2007), *Rejecting Rights* (Cambridge University Press: 2009), and *Beyond Race, Sex, and Sexual Orientation: Legal Equality without Identity* (Cambridge University Press: 2013).

Cambridge University Press
978-1-108-41538-5 — Private Racism
Sonu Bedi
Frontmatter
[More Information](#)

Private Racism

Sonu Bedi
Dartmouth College



Cambridge University Press
978-1-108-41538-5 — Private Racism
Sonu Bedi
Frontmatter
[More Information](#)

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

University Printing House, Cambridge CB2 8BS, United Kingdom

One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA

477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia

314–321, 3rd Floor, Plot 3, Splendor Forum, Jasola District Centre,
New Delhi – 110025, India

79 Anson Road, #06–04/06, Singapore 079906

Cambridge University Press is part of the University of Cambridge.

It furthers the University's mission by disseminating knowledge in the pursuit of education, learning, and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781108415385

DOI: 10.1017/9781108233507

© Sonu Bedi 2020

This publication is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception and to the provisions of relevant collective licensing agreements, no reproduction of any part may take place without the written permission of Cambridge University Press.

First published 2020

Printed in the United Kingdom by TJ International Ltd. Padstow Cornwall

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library.

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Names: Bedi, Sonu, author.

Title: Private racism / Sonu Bedi, Dartmouth College, New Hampshire.

Description: Cambridge, United Kingdom ; New York, NY : Cambridge University Press, 2020. | Includes bibliographical references and index.

Identifiers: LCCN 2019019740 | ISBN 9781108415385 (alk. paper)

Subjects: LCSH: Racism. | Discrimination. | Equality.

Classification: LCC HT1521 .B394 2020 | DDC 305.8–dc23

LC record available at <https://lccn.loc.gov/2019019740>

ISBN 978-1-108-41538-5 Hardback

Cambridge University Press has no responsibility for the persistence or accuracy of URLs for external or third-party internet websites referred to in this publication and does not guarantee that any content on such websites is, or will remain, accurate or appropriate.

To my students

Cambridge University Press
978-1-108-41538-5 — Private Racism
Sonu Bedi
Frontmatter
[More Information](#)

CONTENTS

Acknowledgments	<i>page</i>	viii
Introduction		1
1 Enlarging the Boundary of Racial Justice		11
2 Casting Racism		47
3 Digital Racism		82
4 Sexual Racism		113
5 Reproductive Market Racism		143
Conclusion: Private Injustice		174
References		182
Index		194

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

It was an intellectual pleasure to write this book. This is largely because I had the opportunity to discuss the book with a range of individuals who provided such generous and insightful feedback.

I presented earlier versions and parts of this book at the conferences for the American Political Science Association and the Society for Business Ethics, as well as Yale's Legal Theory Workshop, Boston University's Gender, Law and Policy Colloquium, Notre Dame's Political Theory Colloquium, and the 2nd Annual Moral and Political Philosophy Workshop at Dartmouth's Ethics Institute.

I thank Jed Rubenfeld for inviting me to Yale's workshop. That workshop, early in the writing process, proved crucial in encouraging me to clarify and revise the argument. I had the privilege of receiving feedback from many in the Yale Law School community. I thank Eileen Hunt Botting for inviting me to Notre Dame's Political Theory Colloquium where I received invaluable comments on an earlier version of the argument in Chapter 5. I thank Linda McClain for inviting me to Boston University's Colloquium. I had the good fortune to present to Linda's class later in the writing process, receiving incisive comments while completing the book. I also thank Brandon Terry for providing thoughtful and encouraging comments at the Moral and Political Philosophy Workshop at Dartmouth. I thank all the participants at these venues for engaging my overall thesis so rigorously and thoughtfully. I was also lucky to have a conversation with Christopher Parker about framing the argument.

I also benefitted from many long and fruitful discussions about the book with Monu Bedi, Suneal Bedi, Brian Bowden, Victoria Kennedy,

Acknowledgments

ix

Elvin Lim, Vincent Mack, Tim Nguyen, Timothy Spruill, and Craig Sutton. I also thank the anonymous reviewers for their constructive guidance.

I am lucky to be a member of the Department of Government and a member of the larger Dartmouth community where I have such supportive colleagues. It's a pleasure to be a faculty member here. I also benefitted from a senior faculty fellowship and sabbatical in 2015–2016 which provided me time to work on the book.

I am also lucky to be teaching at Dartmouth. The first time I taught my own course here was in January 2007. Since then, I have been fortunate to have such great students to teach and learn from. My teaching influences my scholarship and vice versa. In that spirit, I dedicate this book to my students. It was also a pleasure to present parts of the book to meetings of the *Dartmouth Law Journal* and the Dartmouth Minority Pre-Law Association. I received encouragement and instructive feedback from the students who attended. Students in my spring 2017 seminar entitled “Race, Law, and Identity” read earlier chapters also providing thoughtful comments. Connie Lee provided research assistance for Chapter 3.

An earlier version of Chapter 4 was published in the *Journal of Politics*, Vol. 77 (4) (2015) (“Sexual Racism: Intimacy as a Matter of Justice”).

I'm grateful to John Berger, my editor extraordinaire at Cambridge University Press, for his support and commitment. John has been a senior editor at the Press for over fifteen years, where he has dedicated so much of his time to advancing knowledge. I thank him for that. John is leaving the Press in 2019, so this will be one of his final books at the press. I'm fortunate to be one of John's authors.

Cambridge University Press
978-1-108-41538-5 — Private Racism
Sonu Bedi
Frontmatter
[More Information](#)
