

Networked News, Racial Divides

Against conventional wisdom, pervasive Black-White disparities pair with vitriolic public conversation in politically progressive communities throughout America. *Networked News, Racial Divides* examines obstacles to public dialogues about racial inequality and opportunities for better discourse in mid-sized, liberal cities. The book narrates the challenges faced when talking about race through stories about communities struggling with K–12 education achievement gaps. Media expert Sue Robinson applies Bourdieusian field theory to understand media ecologies and analyze whose voices get heard and whose get left out. She explores how privilege shapes discourse and how identity politics can interfere with deliberation. Drawing on network analysis of community dialogues, interviews with journalists, politicians, activists and citizens, and deep case study of five cities, this reflexive and occasionally narrative book chronicles the institutional, cultural, and other problematic realities of amplifying voices of all people, while also recommending strategies to move forward and build trust.

Sue Robinson holds the Helen Franklin Firstbrook Professor of Journalism research chair in the School of Journalism and Mass Communication at University of Wisconsin-Madison, where she teaches and researches digital technologies and information authority in journalism studies. Robinson is widely published, has won many grants and awards – including the Krieghbaum Under-40 Award – and consults for newsrooms, school districts, and other organizations. She worked as a reporter for thirteen years before entering academia.

Communication, Society and Politics

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Politics and relations among individuals in societies across the world are being transformed by new technologies for targeting individuals and sophisticated methods for shaping personalized messages. The new technologies challenge boundaries of many kinds – between news, information, entertainment, and advertising; between media, with the arrival of the World Wide Web; and even between nations. *Communication, Society and Politics* probes the political and social impacts of these new communication systems in national, comparative, and global perspective.

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(continued after the Index)

Networked News, Racial Divides

*How Power and Privilege Shape Public Discourse
in Progressive Communities*

SUE ROBINSON

University of Wisconsin-Madison



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*This book is dedicated to my mother and best friend,
Gloria P. Robinson,
whose incredible strength and resourcefulness
have been my inspiration.*

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