

Recommended Readings by
Visiting SCU Diversity Speakers
2009-10

Rich Benjamin: for information on his visit, see www.scu.edu/oml

Whitopia (2009)

Between 2007 and 2009, Rich Benjamin, a journalist-adventurer, packed his bags and embarked on a 26,909-mile journey throughout the heart of white America, to some of the fastest-growing and whitest locales in our nation. By 2042, whites no longer will be the American majority. As immigrant populations – largely people of color – increase in cities and suburbs, more and more whites are moving to small towns and exurban areas that are predominately, even extremely, white. Rich Benjamin calls these enclaves “Whitopias” (pronounced: “White-o-pias”).

His journey to unlock the mysteries of Whitopias took him from a three-day white separatist retreat with links to Aryan Nations in North Idaho to the inner sanctum of George W. Bush’s White House, and many points in between. To learn what makes Whitopias tick, and why and how they are growing, he lived in three of them (in Georgia, Idaho, and Utah) for several months each. A compelling raconteur, bon vivant, and scholar, Benjamin reveals what Whitopias are like and explores the urgent social and political implications of this startling phenomenon.

The glow of Barack Obama’s historic election cannot obscure the racial and economic segregation still vexing America. Obama’s presidency actually has raised the stakes in a battle royale between two versions of America: one that is broadly comfortable with diversity yet residentially segregated (ObamaNation) and one that does not mind a little ethnic food or a few mariachi dancers – as long as these trends do not overwhelm a white dominant culture (Whitopia).

Félix Gutiérrez: for information on his visit, see www.scu.edu/cml/programs/hispmmonth.cfm

Racism, Sexism, and the Media: The Rise of Class Communication in Multicultural America (2004)

Racial and ethnic inclusiveness has grown to be more important in the United States as its society has become increasingly diverse. *Racism, Sexism, and the Media: The Rise of Class Communication in Multicultural America*, third edition examines how people of color fit into the fabric of America and how the media tell them and others how they fit. Authors Clint C. Wilson, Félix Gutiérrez, and Lena M. Chao perceive the rise of class communication as a result of the convergence of new media technologies and continued demographic segmentation of audiences as people of color grow as targets of and markets for the media.

The third edition of *Racism, Sexism, and the Media* includes updated content on topics covered in the previous editions, such as film, television, radio, print media, advertising, and public relations. This edition incorporates new material on women of color, including an integrated assessment of their media experiences. The authors have arranged the chapters to facilitate a logical approach to the subject, providing readers more access to understanding how the media represent minorities.

Michael Omi: for more information, see www.scu.edu/ethnicstudies/news

Racial Formation in the United States: from the 1960s to the 1990s (1994)

Racial Formation in the United States now is considered a classic in the literature on race and ethnicity. This second edition builds upon and updates Omi and Winant's groundbreaking research. In addition to a preface to the new edition, the book provides a more detailed account of the theory of racial formation processes. It includes material on the historical development of race, the question of racism, race-class-gender interrelationships, and everyday life. A final chapter updates the developments in American racial politics up to the present, focusing on such key events as the 1992 Presidential election, the Los Angeles riots, and the Clinton administration's racial politics and policies.

Shawn Ginwright, for information on his visit, see www.scu.edu/ethnicstudies/news

Beyond Resistance! Youth Activism and Community Change (2006)

Over the past decade, urban communities have experienced unprecedented social, economic, and political transformation. Globalization and de-

industrialization have contributed to the exodus of jobs, produced higher levels of inequality, and consequent, furthered marginalization of the urban poor. Urban youth have been particularly affected by this transformation. The failure of urban school districts and the lack of jobs, health services and effective prevention and intervention programs have placed large numbers of low-income urban youth at risk. In the absence of policies and institutions that respond to the needs of youth, a climate of fear focused particularly on responding to fears of youth crime also has shaped a national consciousness about urban communities and the youth within them.

Urban Youth and Community Change brings together work by leading scholars who study urban youth and who have a grounded knowledge of the issues they face. A commitment to social justice and equity is a unifying theme for this volume, and each of the authors examines to varying degrees how such values and commitments can be incorporated into public policy. The goal of this edited volume is to draw on the knowledge and expertise of these scholars from various academic disciplines and to share with policymakers and the general public insights into the impact of punitive/zero tolerance policies on young people's educational experience and well being. These chapters also offer new ideas about how to support youth placed at risk by deteriorating circumstances in urban areas and offers recommendations on how to create more humane and responsive youth policies at the local, state and federal level.

Lorena Oropeza, for information on her visit, see www.scu.edu/ethnicstudies/news

Raza sí!, Guerra no!: Chicano protest and patriotism during the Viet Nam war era (2005)

This incisive and elegantly written examination of Chicano antiwar mobilization demonstrates how the pivotal experience of activism during the Viet Nam War era played itself out among Mexican Americans. *Raza Sí! Guerra No!* presents an engaging portrait of Chicano protest and patriotism. On a deeper level, the book considers larger themes of American nationalism and citizenship and the role of minorities in the military service, themes that remain pertinent today. Lorena Oropeza's exploration of the evolution, political trajectory, and eventual implosion of the Chicano campaign against the war in Viet Nam encompasses a fascinating meditation on Mexican Americans' political and cultural orientations, loyalties, and sense of status and place in American society. This incisive and

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Kim Geron, for information on her visit, see www.scu.edu/ethnicstudies/news

The snake dance of Asian American activism: community, vision, and power (2008)

This text reinterprets a misunderstood epoch of the Asian American experience and the Asian American movement (AAM). The authors address the AAM's dramatic impact on the direction of Asian American political and social activity beginning in the 1960s, particularly in terms of neighborhood redevelopment, civil rights, international solidarity, and the Jesse Jackson presidential campaigns. They argue that the movement became the vehicle to bring Asian American communities into the mainstream of civil life.

Sylvia Hurtado, for information on her visit, see www.scu.edu/identity

Intergroup Dialogue: Deliberative Democracy in School, College, Community and Workplace (2001)

Intergroup dialogue represents a grassroots effort to meet one of the major challenges facing our democracy today: the lack of communication among diverse groups of people in schools, in communities, and in the workplace. By forging lines of communication among different elements of society, intergroup dialogue helps to create a more just, harmonious, and strong democracy. *Intergroup Dialogue* is the most comprehensive study of intergroup dialogue to date, showcasing 12 in-depth case studies, offering critical perspectives, and exploring the foundation of such dialogue in democratic theory. The case studies are drawn from leading American organizations offering intergroup dialogue, including the Anti-Defamation League and the National Conference for

Community and Justice, as well as several major universities and consultants to corporate America. Each case study presents a particular program's rationale, its details, an account of its successes, and evaluation data.

Troy Duster, for information on his visit, see www.scu.edu/identity

Whitewashing Race: The Myth of a Color-Blind Society (2003)

White Americans, abetted by neo-conservative writers of all hues, generally believe that racial discrimination is a thing of the past and that any racial inequalities that undeniably persist – in wages, family income, access to housing or health care – can be attributed to African Americans' cultural and individual failures. If the experience of most black Americans says otherwise, an explanation has been sorely lacking – or obscured by the passions the issue provokes. At long last offering a cool, clear, and informed perspective on the subject, this book brings together a team of highly respected sociologists, political scientists, economists, criminologists, and legal scholars to scrutinize the logic and evidence behind the widely held belief in a color-blind society and to provide an alternative explanation for continued racial inequality in the United States.

While not denying the economic advances of black Americans since the 1960s, *Whitewashing Race* draws on new and compelling research to demonstrate the persistence of racism and the effects of organized racial advantage across many institutions in American society, including the labor market, the welfare state, the criminal justice system, and schools and universities. Looking beyond the stalled debate over current antidiscrimination policies, the authors also put forth a fresh vision for achieving genuine racial equality of opportunity in a post-affirmative action world.