Chapter Twelve: Race and Ethnicity

Key Words and Concepts

Affirmative Action  Melting Pot
Assimilation  Minority Group
Bigotry  Multiculturalism
Cultural Diversity  Pluralism
Discrimination  Prejudice
Dominant Group  Race
Ethnic Cleansing  Race Relations
Ethnic Group  Racism
Ethnicity  Segregation
Genocide  Self-Fulfilling Prophecy
Immigration  Split Labor Market
Individual Discrimination  WASP
Invisible Minority

Preview of Featured Articles

Key Term or Concept: Discrimination
Article and Synopsis: “Measuring Self-Perceived Racial and Ethnic Discrimination in Social Surveys” by Tony N. Brown

The purpose of the article is to encourage a research agenda that attends to methodological considerations regarding measuring self-perceived racial and ethnic discrimination in self-report surveys. Toward this end the author compared validity of alternative measures of discrimination.

Key Term or Concept: Ethnic Group
Article and Synopsis: “Fitting into Categories or Falling Between Them? Rethinking Ethnic Classifications” by Alastair Bonnett and Bruce Carrington

The collection of racial and ethnic statistics has become common in a growing number of institutional settings. The authors contend that requiring people to assign themselves to one of a small number of racial or ethnic “boxes” is at best, essential, and at worst, racist.

Key Term or Concept: Pluralism
Article and Synopsis: “Deconstructing Cultural Pluralism” by Jack Niemonen

The basic premise of this article is that the revival and increasing acceptance of the concept of cultural pluralism, and its contemporary variant, multiculturalism, in popular and academic discourses should be investigated as a problem in the sociology of knowledge. The article argues that the concept lacks perceptual precision and analytical rigor.
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