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Du Bois Review: Social Science Research on Race

INSTRUCTIONS FOR AUTHORS

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If the Harvard case makes it to the high court—and this is clearly Ed Blum’s intention—it could mean the end of race-conscious admissions. Brett Kavanaugh’s replacement of Justice Kennedy, a regular swing vote on these cases, is one factor. Another is that the Harvard case is historically unique: it is the first major challenge to affirmative action in higher education that features Asian American rather than White plaintiffs. SFFA’s claim of racial discrimination is potentially more powerful because the alleged victims are themselves “minorities.” Prima facie, it seems harder to justify admissions policies that help certain racial minorities if those same policies burden not just Whites but other racial minorities as well. Indeed, SFFA’s complaint analogizes Harvard’s race-conscious admissions program to Jim Crow in the U.S. South, suggesting that Asian Americans have displaced Blacks as the most disadvantaged group in society—that they are, in a phrase, *the new Blacks*.

— CLAIRE KIM

I will always support gay marriage and equal rights for all. But it really, really bothers me when gay rights groups equate civil rights and gay rights, or when gays say ‘gay is the new Black.’ No it isn’t and it never will be. Although I don’t think you can choose to be gay, I am living proof you can choose to *identify* as gay or not. I do that every time I go home. I do not have to deal with homophobia because I can choose not to tell people I’m gay if it will hurt me physically, economically, or emotionally. But I can’t ever choose not to be Black. My Blackness is written on me in ways being gay is not. I have to face racism. I don’t have to face homophobes... And I’m so glad we have gay marriage now so if I ever decide to marry I can. But gay marriage is not going to stop people from being homophobic. I still have to choose my battles.

— C. SHAWN MCGUFFEY

“Our results indicate that the racial hostility captured by the Racial Resentment Scale is firmly grounded in social considerations about racial group hierarchy. Appeals to the influence/threat of Blacks was the second most frequently used frame of reference for high-resentment respondents (39%), with 98% arguing that Blacks are a threat. Although we also find evidence of racial hostility ground in psychology acrimony, with 20% of high-resentment respondents appealing to a lack of sympathy/admiration for Blacks, this frame of reference is overshadowed by concerns about Blacks encroaching on Whites’ prerogatives”

— ALICA D. SIMMONS AND LAWRENCE D. BOBO

Importantly, the White urban regime is not disrupted by the ongoing “crisis” of Benton Harbor’s government—in fact, crises facilitate what I call an “extraction machine,” pulling assets from the city. In Glenn Bracey’s “critical race theory of state,” the state serves as an “instrument for maintaining White dominance,” with Whites’ structural position shaping their interest and actions: White dominance includes Whites’ power to “exclude people of color from normal politics.” The case of Michigan’s Emergency Manager law represents an interesting test, as elected Black officials were literally shut out from “normal politics.” But is “normal politics” state administration under the emergency management law, or White urban regime actions, or neither, or both?

— LOUISE SEAMSTER

In a period of rapidly declining home values and rising crime rates, White residents in the neighborhood began to see people of color, especially Black men and renters as the source of the problem, even though only two of the neighborhood’s reported forty-four burglaries, attempted break-ins, and suspected break-ins were confirmed to have involved Black men. As a result, Zimmerman had extra incentive to reinforce his masculine self-esteem by trying to live up to “the idealized masculinity” of a “heterosexual, white, and upper-middle-class” man by placing himself in the role of neighborhood watch captain. By doing so, Zimmerman took on the role of White male protector, performing his identity in ways that made him—that even would have made a Black man—an honorary White.

— ANGELA ONWUACHI-WILLIG

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