

Required Readings for the Race and Ethnicity Comprehensive Exam Revised 09/18/23

Overview and Instructions

This list contains 37 required readings and 50 supplemental (non-required readings). Four scholars with expertise on race and ethnicity invested time in coming up with a list that is by no means exhaustive but that would give students a well-rounded preparation in the subfield. The required readings are ones whose arguments students are expected to master. Supplemental readings are ones that allow students to develop expertise in sub-areas, but they are not mandatory. The mandate for those who prepare the exam is that they should know the field of race and ethnicity and develop their own analytical framework. Students may add 10-12 works to round out an area of interest. These works do not replace readings from the required list but are ones approved by the student's committee that expand the required list.

Please make sure that you are familiar with the [Sociology Comprehensive Exam Preparation Guidelines](#).

Key Debates

(select two debates and become familiar with key issues at stake)

1. Debate 1
 - a. Bonilla-Silva, Eduardo. 1997. "Rethinking Racism: Toward a Structural Interpretation." *American Sociological Review* 62(3):465-480
 - b. Loveman, Mara. 1999. "Is "Race" Essential?" *American Sociological Review* 64(6):891-98
2. Debate 2
 - a. Wimmer, Andreas. 2015. "Race-Centrism: A Critique and a Research Agenda." *Ethnic and Racial Studies* 38(13):2186-205
 - b. Howard Winant (2015) Response to Andreas Wimmer, *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, 38:13, 2206-2207
3. Debate 3
 - a. Bonilla-Silva, Eduardo. 2004. "From Bi-racial to Tri-racial: Towards a New System of Racial Stratification in the USA." *Ethnic and Racial Studies* 27(6):931-50
 - b. Sue, Christina. 2009. "An Assessment of the Latin Americanization Thesis." *Ethnic and Racial Studies* 32(6):1058-70
4. Debate 4
 - a. Valdez, Zulema and Tanya Golash-Boza. 2017. "U.S. Racial and Ethnic Relations in the Twenty-First Century." *Ethnic and Racial Studies* 40(13):2181-209
 - b. Sue, Christina A. 2017. "U.S. Racial and Ethnic Relations in the Twenty-First Century: Are Old Divisions Prevailing?" *Ethnic and Racial Studies*:1-8

5. Debate 5
 - a. Saperstein, Aliya and Andrew M. Penner. 2012. "Racial Fluidity and Inequality in the United States." *American Journal of Sociology* 118(3):676-727
 - b. Alba, Richard, Noura Insolera and Scarlett Lindeman. 2016. "Is Race Really So Fluid? Revisiting Saperstein and Penner's Empirical Claims." *American Journal of Sociology* 122:247-62

GENERAL THEORETICAL PERSPECTIVES

1. Arendt, Hannah. 1968. "Race-Thinking Before Racism" and "Race and Bureaucracy" in *The Origins of Totalitarianism*. New York: Harcourt Brace
2. Barth, Fredrik. 1996 [1969]. "Ethnic Groups and Boundaries." Pp. 75-83 in *Ethnicity*, edited by John Hutchinson and Anthony D. Smith. Oxford: Oxford University Press
3. Brubaker, Rogers, Mara Loveman and Peter Stamatov. 2004. "Ethnicity as Cognition." *Theory and Society* 33:31-64
4. Cornell, Stephen and Douglas Hartmann. 2007. *Ethnicity and Race: Making Identities in a Changing World*. Thousand Oaks: Pine Forge Press*
5. Emirbayer, and Desmond. 2015. *The Racial Order*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. (see also 2016 *Ethnic and Racial Studies* commentary by Howard Winant)
6. Fields, B.J., 1990. Slavery, race and ideology in the United States of America. *New Left Review*, 181(1), pp.95-118.
7. Hall, Stuart. 2017. *The Fateful Triangle: Race, Ethnicity, Nation*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press*
8. Mills, Charles W. 1997. *The Racial Contract*. London: Cornell University Press*
9. Morning Ann, and Marcelo Maneri. 2022. *An Ugly Word: Rethinking Race in Italy and the United States*. New York, NY: Russell Sage Foundation
10. Omi, Michael, and Howard Winant. 2015 (3rd ed.). *Racial Formation in the United States from the 1960s to the 1990s*. New York: Routledge*

11. Robinson, Cedric J. 2000 (2nd ed.). *Black Marxism: The Making of the Black Radical Tradition*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press.
12. Treitler, Vilna Bashi. 2013. *The Ethnic Project: Transforming Racial Fiction into Ethnic Factions*. Stanford: Stanford University Press*
13. Weber, Max. 1996. "The Origins of Ethnic Groups." Pp. 35-40 in *Ethnicity*, edited by John Hutchinson and Anthony D. Smith. New York: Oxford University Press. (original publication in *Economy and Society*, 1922, posthumously)
14. Wilson, William Julius. 2012 (3rd ed.). *The Declining Significance of Race: Blacks and Changing American Institutions*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press
15. Wimmer, Andreas. 2008. "The Making and Unmaking of Ethnic Boundaries: A Multilevel Process Theory." *American Journal of Sociology* 113:970–1022

Assimilation Theory

16. Alba, Richard and Victor Nee. 1997. "Rethinking Assimilation Theory for a New Era of Immigration." *International Migration Review* 31:4, pp. 826-874
17. Gordon, Milton. 1964. *Assimilation in American Life: The Role of Race, Religion, and National Origins*. New York: Oxford University Press
18. Jung, Moon-Kie. 2009. "The Racial Unconscious of Assimilation Theory." *Du Bois Review* 6(2):375-95

RACIAL CLASSIFICATION

19. Davis, James F. 1991. *Who Is Black? One Nation's Definition*. University Park: Pennsylvania
20. Loveman, Mara. 2014. *National Colors: Racial Classification and the State in Latin America*. New York: Oxford University Press
21. Ellis P. Monk, Jr. 2015. "The Cost of Color: Skin Color, Discrimination, and Health among African Americans." *American Journal of Sociology* 121(2): 396-444

RACE AND IDENTITY

22. Brubaker, Rogers. 2015. "The Return of Biology" in *Grounds for Difference*. Harvard University Press.

23. Chandra, Kanchan. 2012. EXCERPT from “What is Ethnic Identity? A Minimalist Definition,” in *Constructivist Theories of Ethnic Politics*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
24. Waters, Mary. 1990. *Ethnic Options: Choosing Identities in America*. Berkeley: University of California Press

RACE and SCIENCE

25. Brubaker, Rogers. 2015. “The Return of Biology” in *Grounds for Difference*. Harvard University Press.
26. Duster, Troy. 2003. *Backdoor to Eugenics* (2nd ed.). New York: Routledge
27. Zuberi, Tukufu. 2003. *Thicker than Blood: How Racial Statistics Lie*. University of Minnesota.

RACE AND ETHNICITY IN HISTORICAL AND GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE

28. Du Bois, W. E. B. 1998. *Black Reconstruction in America, 1860-1880*. New York: The Free Press.
29. Fanon, Frantz. 2008 [1952]. *Black Skin, White Masks*, pp. 89-119.
30. FitzGerald, David and David Cook-Martín. 2014. *Culling the Masses: The Democratic Origins of Racist Immigration Policy in the Americas*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press. Chs. 1-3
31. Fredrickson, George M. 2002. *Racism: A Short History*. Princeton, New Jersey: Princeton University Press
32. Roediger, David. 1991. *The Wages of Whiteness*. New York: Verso
33. Wade, Peter. 2010. *Race and Ethnicity in Latin America*. London: Pluto Press
34. Wolfe, Patrick. 2016. *Traces of History: Elementary Structures of Race*. New York: Verso

RACE IN INTERSECTIONAL PERSPECTIVE

35. Collins, Patricia Hill. 1991. *Black Feminist Thought: Knowledge, Consciousness, and the Politics of Empowerment*. New York: Routledge
36. Crenshaw, Kimberle. 1991. "Mapping the Margins: Intersectionality, Identity Politics, and Violence Against Women of Color." *Stanford Law Review* 43(6):1241-99
37. Massey, Douglas, and Nancy Denton. 1993. *American Apartheid: Segregation and the Making of the Underclass*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press*

Reading designate with an () are suggested points of entry into this list.

Supplementary Readings

(This list contains strongly recommended but not required texts. They may be useful depending on student interests or to supplement their understanding of a topic)

1. Anderson, Elijah. 1990. *Race, Class, and Change in an Urban Community*. University of Chicago Press
2. Anderson, Elijah. 2011. *The Cosmopolitan Canopy Race and Civility in Everyday Life*. W.W. Norton & Company
3. Banivanua-Mar, Tracey. 2006. *Violence and Colonial Dialogue: The Australian-Pacific Indentured Labor Trade*. University of Hawaii Press (especially Introduction, Chapter 1 and Chapter 3)
4. Banivanua-Mar, Tracey. 2016. *Decolonisation and the Pacific: Indigenous Globalization and the Ends of Empire*. Cambridge. (especially Introduction, Chapters 1-2 and Chapter 6)
5. Banivanua Mar, Tracey and Penelope Edmonds, ed. 2010. *Making Settler Colonial Space: Perspectives on Race, Place, and Identity*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan. Introduction, chapter 4, chapter 5
6. Byrd, Jodi A. 2011. *The Transit of Empire: Indigenous Critiques of Colonialism*. Introduction.
7. Coulthard, Glen Sean. 2014. *Red Skin, White Masks: Rejecting the Colonial Politics of Recognition* (Links to an external site.). Introduction
8. Bettie, Julie. 2014. *Women without Class: Girls, Race, and Identity*. University of California Press
9. Chavez, Leo. 2008. *The Latino Threat: Constructing Immigrants, Citizens, and the Nation*. Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press.
10. Cook-Martín, David. 2021. Cui Bono: Linking Political and Racial Orders. In Solomos, John. *Routledge International Handbook of Contemporary Racisms*. Routledge.
11. de Genova, Nicholas P. 2005. *Working the Boundaries: Race, Space, and "Illegality" in Mexican Chicago*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press

12. Dikotter, Frank. 2015. *The Discourse of Race in Modern China*. New York: Oxford University Press
13. Eidsheim, Nina. 2019. *The Race of Sound*. New York: Oxford University Press
14. FitzGerald, David. 2017. "History of Racialized Citizenship" in Shachar, Ayelet, Rainer Bauboeck, Irene Bloemraad, and Maarten Vink. 2017. *The Oxford Handbook of Citizenship*. Oxford University Press.
15. Fox, Cybelle. 2012. *Three Worlds of Relief: Race, Immigration and the American Welfare State from the Progressive Era to the New Deal*. New Jersey: Princeton University Press
16. Goffman, Alice, 2014. *On the Run : Fugitive Life in an American City*. Chicago; London: The University of Chicago Press
17. Hall, Stuart. 2017. *Familiar Stranger: A Life between Two Islands*. Duke University Press (especially chapters 1-4)
18. Hanchard, Michael G. 2018. *The Spectre of Race: How Discrimination Haunts Western Democracy*. Princeton University Press
19. Hattam, Victoria. 2004. "Ethnicity: An American Genealogy." Pp. 42-60 in Foner, Nancy and George M. Fredrickson, eds., *Not Just Black and White: Historical and Contemporary Perspectives on Immigration, Race, and Ethnicity in the United States*. New York: Russell Sage Foundation.
20. Hochschild, Jennifer L., Vesla M. Weaver, and Traci R. Burch. 2012. *Creating a New Racial Order: How Immigration, Multiracialism, Genomics, and the Young Can Remake Race in America*. Princeton University Press.
21. Ince, Onur Ulas. 2021. "Deprovincializing Racial Capitalism: John Crawford and Settler Colonialism in India." *American Political Science Review* 1–17. doi: [10.1017/S0003055421000939](https://doi.org/10.1017/S0003055421000939).
22. King, Charles. 2019. *Gods of the Upper Air: How a Circle of Renegade Anthropologists Reinvented Race, Sex, and Gender in the 20th Century*. Doubleday.
23. Lee, Jennifer and Min Zhou. 2015. *The Asian American Achievement Paradox*. New York: Russell Sage Foundation.

24. Mojola, Sanyu A. 2014. *Love, Money, and HIV: Becoming a Modern African Woman in the Age of AIDS*. Berkeley: University of California Press
25. Molina, Natalia. 2014. *How Race Is Made in America: Immigration, Citizenship, and the Historical Power of Racial Scripts*. University of California Press.
26. Mora, Cristina. 2014. *Making Hispanics: How Activists, Bureaucrats, and Media Constructed a New American*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press
27. Morning, Ann. 2011. *The Nature of Race: How Scientists Think and Teach about Human Difference*. Berkeley: University of California Press
28. Morris, Aldon D. 2015. *The Scholar Denied: W. E. B. Du Bois and the Birth of Modern Sociology*. Oakland: University of California Press
29. Nakano Glenn, Evelyn. 2002. *Unequal Freedom: How Race and Gender Shaped American Citizenship and Labor*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press.
30. Ngai, Mae. M. 2014. *Impossible Subjects: Illegal Aliens and the Making of Modern America*. Princeton University Press.
31. Oliver, Melvin L. and Thomas M. Shapiro. 2006. *Black Wealth/White Wealth: A New Perspective on Racial Inequality*. New York: Routledge.
32. Paschel, Tianna S. 2016. *Becoming Black Political Subjects: Movements and Ethno-Racial Rights in Colombia and Brazil*. New Jersey: Princeton University Press
33. Patterson, Orlando. 2018. *Slavery and Social Death*. Harvard University Press (especially Preface and Introduction)
34. Portes, Alejandro and Min Zhou. 1993. "The New Second Generation: Segmented Assimilation and Its Variants." *American Academy of Political and Social Science* 530:74-96.
35. Ralph, Michael and Maya Singhal. 2019. Racial Capitalism. *Theory and Society* 48(6):851-881.
36. Ray, V. (2019). A Theory of Racialized Organizations. *American Sociological Review*, 84(1), 26–53
37. Rios, Victor. 2011. *Punished: Policing the Lives of Black and Latino Boys*. New York: New York University Press

38. Roberts, Dorothy. 2011. *Fatal Invention: How Science, Politics, and Big Business Recreate Race in the 21st Century*. New Press
39. Roth, Wendy D. and Biorn Ivemark. 2018. "Genetic Options: The Impact of Genetic Ancestry Testing on Consumers' Racial and Ethnic Identities." *American Journal of Sociology* 124(1):150-84.
40. Roth, Wendy. 2012. *Race Migrations: Latinos and the Cultural Transformation of Race*. Stanford: Stanford University Press.
41. Saperstein, Aliya, Andrew M. Penner, and Ryan Light. 2013. "Racial Formation in Perspective: Connecting Individuals, Institutions, and Power Relations." *Annual Review of Sociology* 39:359-378
42. Schachter, Ariela. 2016. "From 'Different' to 'Similar': An Experimental Approach to - Understanding Assimilation." *American Sociological Review* 81(5): 981-1013.
43. Smedley, Audrey. 2007. *Race in North America: Origin and Evolution of a Worldview*. Boulder: Westview Press
44. Sue, Christina. 2013. *Land of the Cosmic Race: Race Mixture, Racism, and Blackness in Mexico*. Oxford University Press.
45. Telles and Sue. 2019. *Durable Ethnicity: Mexican Americans and the Ethnic Core*. Oxford University Press.
46. Telles, Edward E. 2004. *Race in Another America: The Significance of Skin Color in Brazil*. Princeton, New Jersey: Princeton University Press.
47. Telles, Edward E. and Christina Sue. 2009. "Race Mixture: Boundary Crossing in Comparative Perspective." *Annual Review of Sociology* 35:129-46. (note, see other Annual Review pieces for overviews of the state of the field on a topic)
48. Telles, Edward E. and Vilma Ortiz. 2008. *Generations of Exclusion: Mexican Americans, Assimilation, and Race*. New York: Russell Sage Foundation.
49. Wade, Peter. *Degrees of Mixture, Degrees of Freedom Genomics, Multiculturalism, and Race in Latin America*. Duke University Press
50. Wailoo, Nelson, and Lee. 2012. *Genetics and the Unsettled Past*. Rutgers University Press. (especially Chapters 1-3, and 19)