

# HONR 358: IDENTITY. POLITICS.

## RACISM(S)



# WHEN WE LAST MET...

## Defined Ethnicity

- Largely a cultural product, based in historic (if occasionally fictional) ancestry

## Defined Race

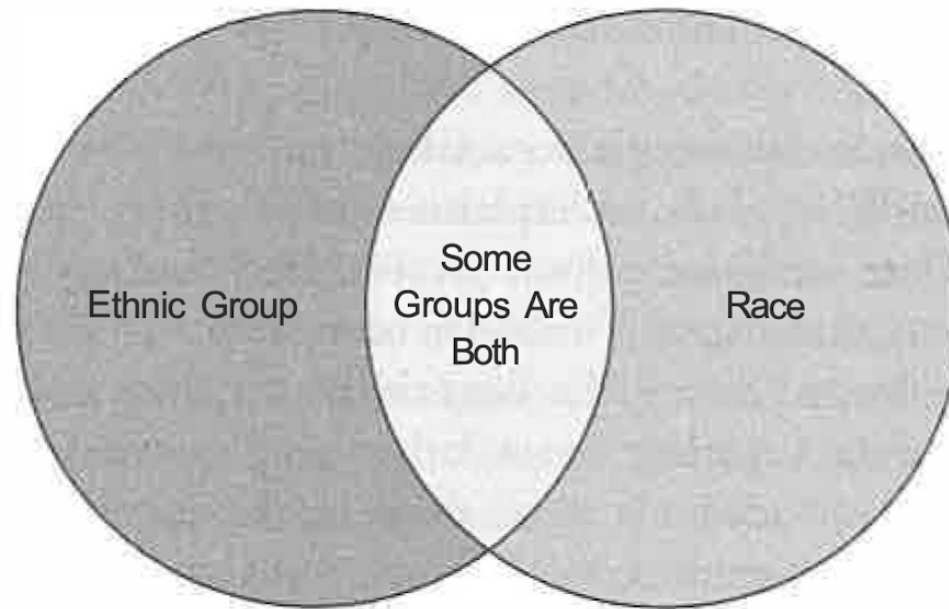
- Hinges on power relations
- Based on perceived *biological* distinctions that are in actuality arbitrarily chosen differences that we imbue with meaning—i.e., they can be contested

## WHEN WE LAST MET...

“Race is not *metaphysical*, but race is a contingently deep reality that structures our particular social universe having a *social objectivity* and a causal significance that arises out of our *particular history*.”

~Charles W. Mills, Philosopher





- Identity is based on putative common descent, claims of shared history, and symbols of peoplehood
  - Identity may originate in either assignment by others or assertion by selves
  - Identity may or may not reflect power relations
  - Identity may or may not imply inherent differences in worth
  - Identity usually constructed by both selves and others
- Identity is based on perceived physical differences
  - Identity typically originates in assignment by others
  - Identity typically reflects power relations
  - Identity implies inherent differences in worth
  - Identity is constructed by others (at point of self-construction, group becomes ethnic group as well as race)

# AGENDA

## Definitions and frameworks:

- Allport (prejudice)
- Omi and Winant (racial formation)
- Kendi vs. McWhorter (racism)

# ALLPORT

A lot of parallels with Appiah...

- It all starts with categorization
- These classifications breed generalizations about groups, which can foster erroneous prejudgments of individuals or the groups they belong to
- BUT...not all *prejudgments* lead to *prejudice*

# New Tunisian law takes long stride toward gender equality

Conor McCormick-Cavanagh July 28, 2017



## ARTICLE SUMMARY

Tunisia's parliament passed landmark legislation to fight violence against women in the country.

*Laws that allow rapists to marry their victims come from colonialism, not Islam*

That there has been such appreciable change in public attitudes towards these laws in the Middle East demonstrates that such discrimination is not inherent to the societies in which we currently find them

Articles

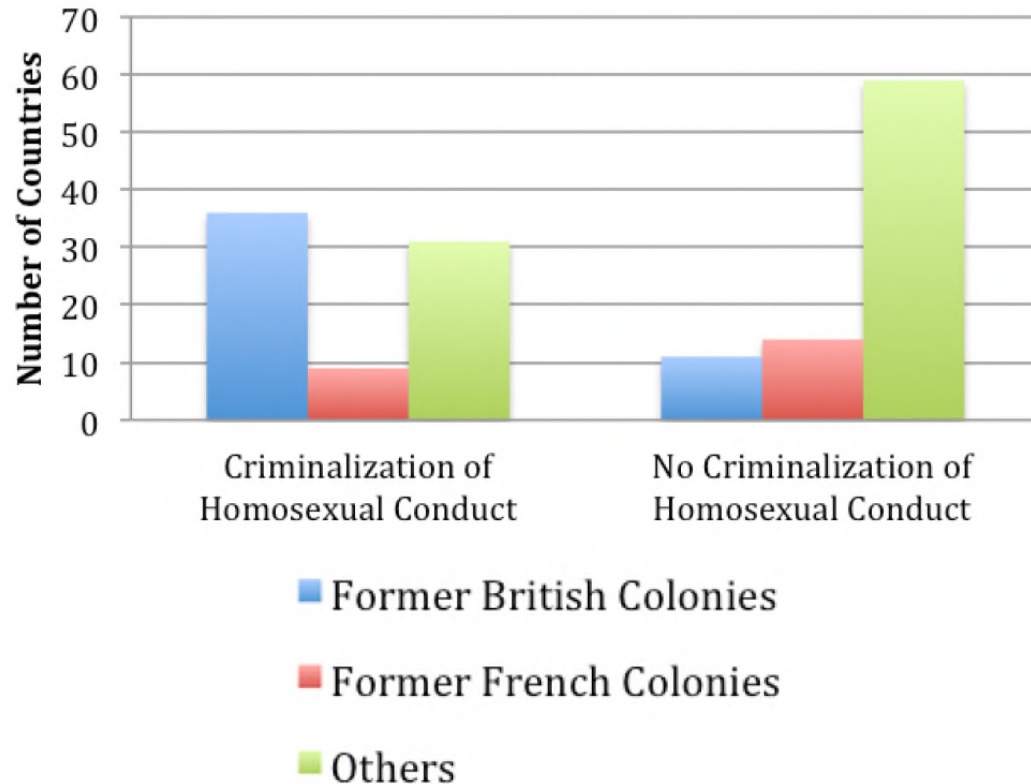
# British colonialism and the criminalization of homosexuality

Enze Han & Joseph O'Mahoney

Pages 268-288 | Published online: 02 May 2014

## Campaigners celebrate as India decriminalises homosexuality

Colonial-era law is struck down by country's highest court after decades of uncertainty





# ALLPORT

Prejudice:

- An antipathy based on a faulty or and *inflexible* generalization

*Ethnocentrism:*

- View that takes one's own group as the “default” with others judged in terms of its familiar standards

*Xenophobia:*

- Fear of outsiders—a manifestation of ethnocentrism

# OMI AND WINANT – PREVIOUS PARADIGMS

How do you explain racial inequality? Three paradigms:

Ethnicity

Class

Nation

# OMI AND WINANT – PREVIOUS PARADIGMS

Ethnicity...

*Pro:*

- Eschewed biological determinism for a more mutable status in society

*Con:*

- Analogy to other once-disadvantaged ethnic groups used as a cudgel to blame Blacks for their status

# OMI AND WINANT – PREVIOUS PARADIGMS

Class...

*Pro:*

- Reveals patterns of exploitation and mobility

*Con:*

- Racial dynamics should be understood as determinants of class relationships (and, indeed, class identities) not merely their consequence

# OMI AND WINANT – PREVIOUS PARADIGMS

Nation...

*Pro:*

- Places US within the global pattern of oppression and colonialism

*Con:*

- Fails to demonstrate the dynamics of “colonized” peoples internal to the US but separate from the majority

# OMI AND WINANT – RACIAL FORMATION

Race:

- An unstable complex of social meanings constantly being transformed by *political* struggle
- A *master* category that shapes the history, politics, economics, and culture in the United States

So...a stable dominant category with shifting meaning

		Census Year																							
		1790	1800	1810	1820	1830	1840	1850	1860	1870	1880	1890	1900	1910	1920	1930	1940	1950	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	
Race Categories	Indian	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■									
	Slave	■	■	■	■	■	■																		
	White	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
	Free colored person			■	■	■																			
	Black							■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
	Mulatto							■	■	■	■	■	■	■											
	Chinese									■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
	Japanese											■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
	Octoroon											■													
	Quadroon											■													
	Other													■		■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
	Mexican															■									
	Negro															■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
	American Indian																	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
	Filipino																	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
	Hawaiian																			■	■	■	■	■	■
	Korean																			■	■	■	■	■	■
	Aleut																				■	■			
	Asian Indian																				■	■	■	■	■
	Eskimo																				■	■			
	Guamanian																				■	■	■	■	■
	Hispanic*																				■	■	■	■	■
	Samoan																				■	■	■	■	■
	Vietnamese																				■	■	■	■	■
	Other Asian or Pacific Islander																					■			
	African American																							■	■
	Alaska Native																							■	■
	Chamorro																							■	■
Latino*																							■	■	
Other Asian																							■	■	
Other Pacific Islander																							■	■	

\* The U.S. Census Bureau considers Hispanic and Latino to be ethnicities rather than a race.





# OMI AND WINANT – RACIAL FORMATION

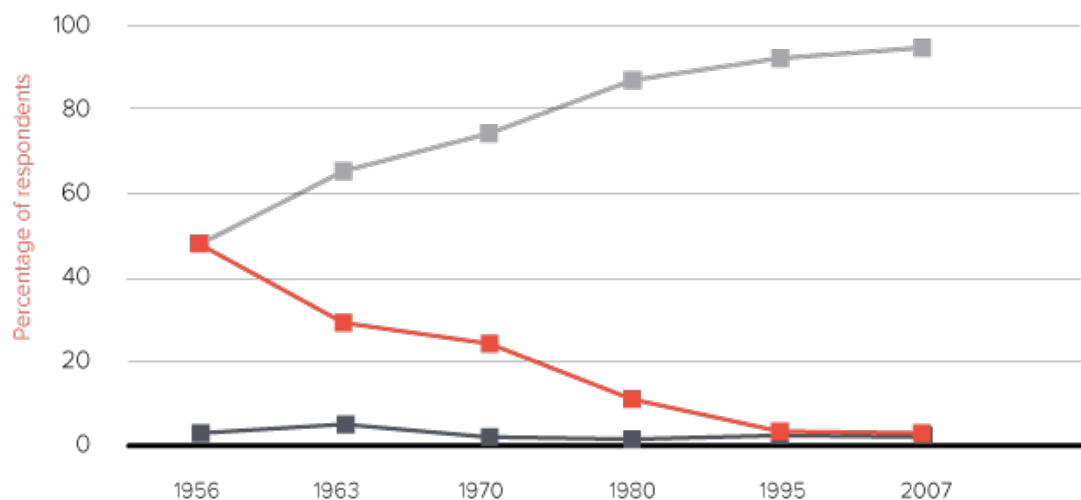
Racial formation:

- The socio-historical process by which racial categories are created inhabited, transformed and destroyed: society shapes race, race shapes society

*How can change occur, but the centrality of race/relations remain intact?*

## GENERAL ATTITUDES TOWARD BLACK AND WHITE STUDENTS ATTENDING THE SAME SCHOOL (BY PERCENTAGE), 1956–2007

■ Same schools   ■ Separate schools   ■ Don't know



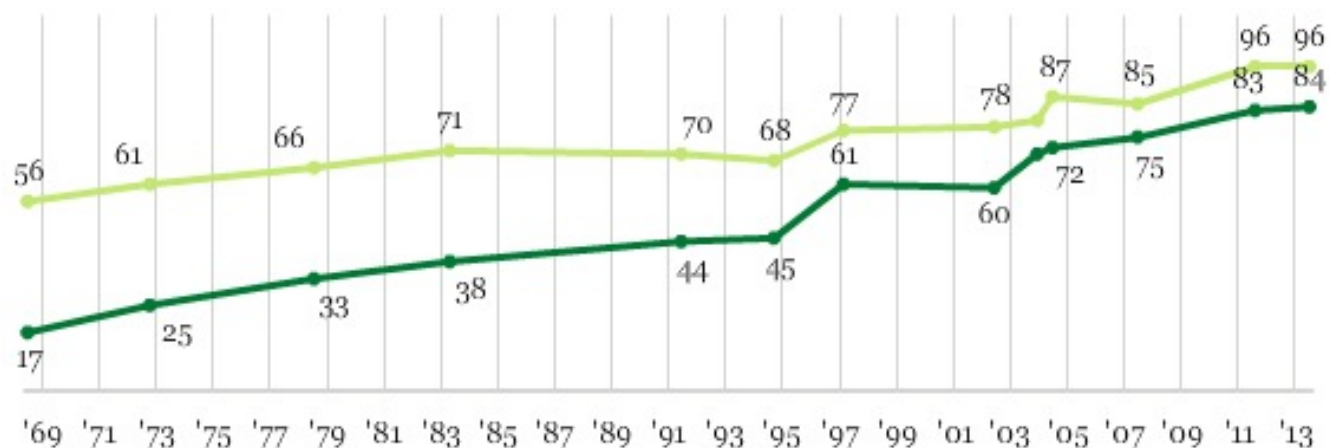
Source: E. Frankenberg and R. Jacobsen, "The Polls—Trends School Integration Polls," *Public Opinion Quarterly* 75, no. 4 (Winter 2011): 788–811, <http://poq.oxfordjournals.org/content/75/4/788>.



## Approval of Black-White Marriage Among Whites and Blacks

Selected trend

■ Whites ^   ■ Non-Hispanic blacks



1958 wording: "... marriages between white and colored people"

1968-1978 wording: "... marriages between whites and nonwhites"

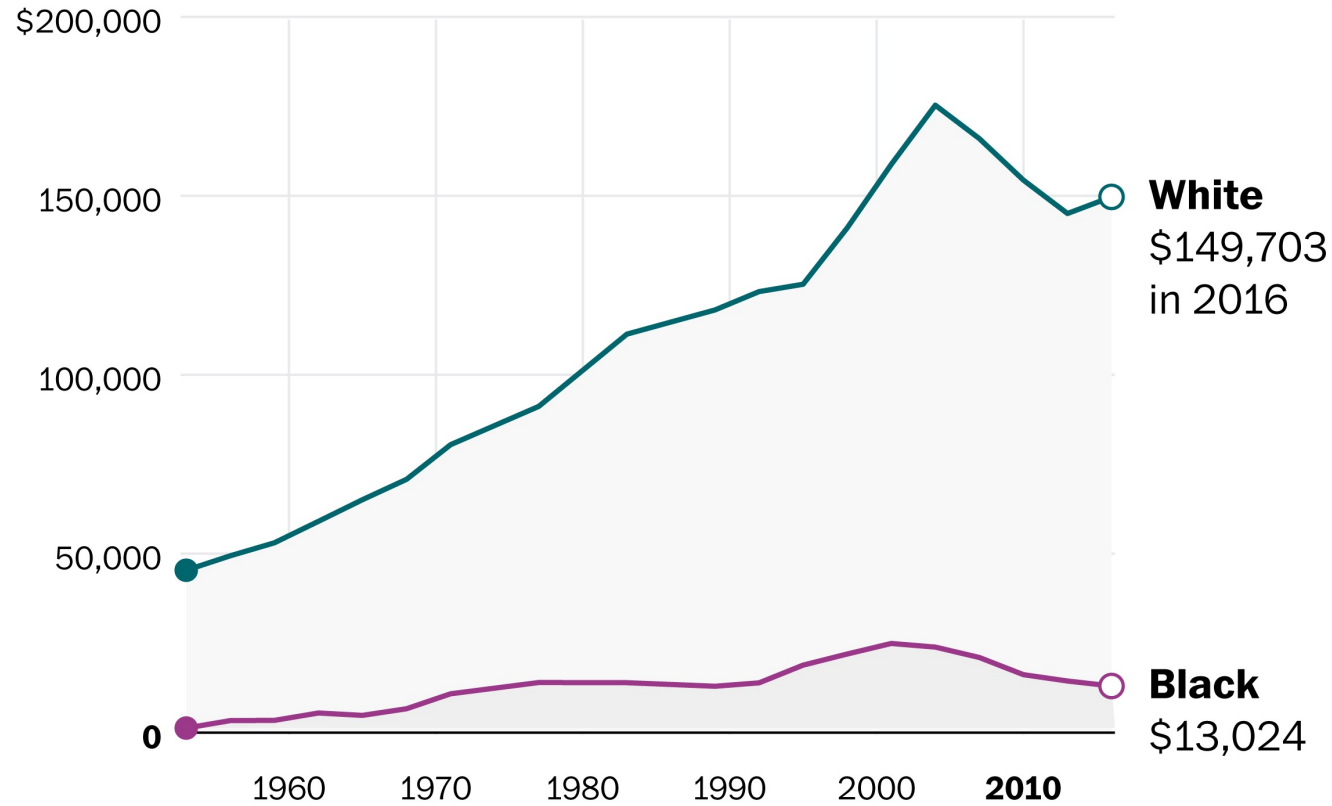
^ Trend from 1968-2003 includes Hispanics; trend from 2004-2013 is for non-Hispanic whites only

GALLUP®



## White wealth surges; black wealth stagnates

Median household wealth, adjusted for inflation



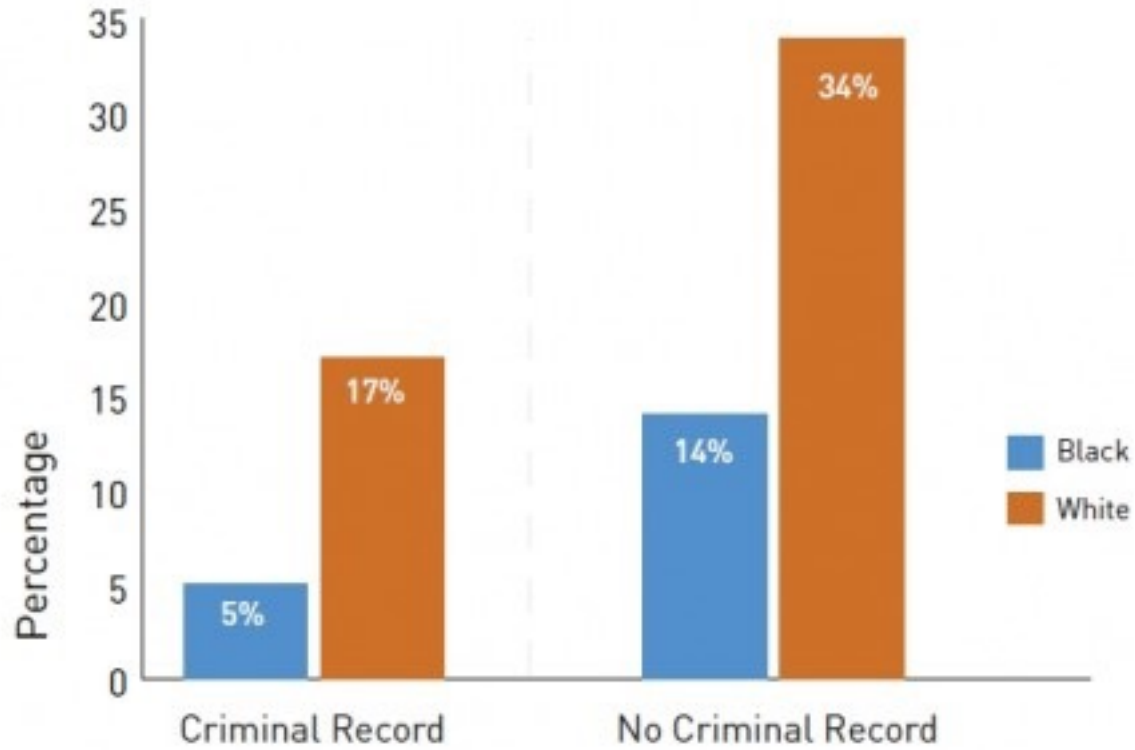
Source: Historical Survey of Consumer Finances via Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis and University of Bonn economists Moritz Kuhn, Moritz Schularick and Ulrike I. Steins  
THE WASHINGTON POST

## Majority of kids who die of coronavirus are Hispanic, Black, or Native American, CDC finds

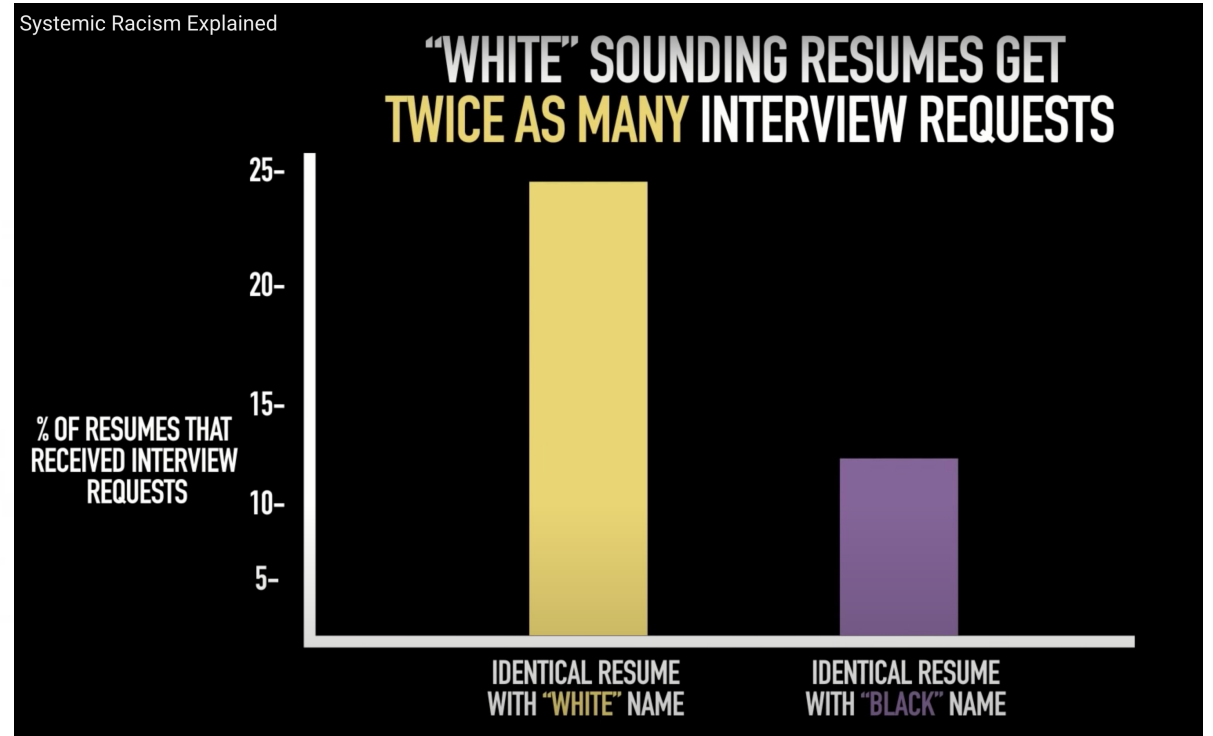


Why people of color are dying at higher rates from COVID-19

**Fig. 9. Racial Impact of a Criminal Record on Interview Callbacks, 2003**



Source: Devah Pager. "The Mark of a Criminal Record", *American Journal of Sociology*. Vol. 108, No. 5 (March 2003). Figure 6, p. 958.



# KENDI & McWHORTER

## Kendi:

- Wants to move away from defining racist policies and racist people based on the perpetrator and the intent to the victim and the outcome
- Because we've all absorbed racist ideas, it's not an indictment of the person, but the system

## McWhorter:

- Bigotry against people or seeing other people as lower or different in some negative way
- Not a societal function

# WHEN NEXT WE MEET...

Assignment for tonight:

Take Implicit Association Test (IAT) and (ANONOMOUSLY!) report results via Google forms by noon tomorrow (will link to both items on Slack)