How can we help African American and Latino students perform better in the classroom and on exams? Why are so many African American and Latino students performing less well than their Asian and White peers? Researchers have argued that African American and Latino students who rebel against “acting white” doom themselves to lower levels of scholastic, economic, and social achievement. However, this book argues that what is needed is a broader recognition of the unique cultural styles and practices that non-white students bring to the classroom. Based on extensive interviews and surveys of students in New York, the book demonstrates that the most successful negotiators of the American school systems are the multicultural navigators, culturally savvy teens who draw from multiple traditions, whether it be knowledge of hip hop or of classical music, to achieve their high ambitions. The book refutes the common wisdom about teenage behavior and racial difference, and shows how intercultural communication, rather than assimilation, can help close the black-white gap.

Most histories of Catholicism in the United States focus on the experience of Euro-American Catholics, whose views on social issues have dominated public debates. This book provides a comprehensive overview of the Latino Catholic experience in America from the sixteenth century to today, and offers the most in-depth examination to date of the important ways the U.S. Catholic Church, its evolving Latino majority,
and American culture are mutually transforming one another. This book highlights the vital contributions of Latinos to American religious and social life, demonstrating in particular how their engagement with the U.S. cultural milieu is the most significant factor behind their ecclesial and societal impact.

Latinas Attempting Suicide
Luis H. Zayas

Among teenage Latinas in the United States, suicide attempts occur at alarming rates, sometimes twice as high as other youth. For decades clinicians in mostly urban centers with large Hispanic populations witnessed the puzzling phenomenon of young Latinas who had attempted suicide. It was not until the 1990s when national surveys confirmed what clinicians were seeing in their practices. But the mystery of why some Latinas attempted when other Latinas with similar social and psychological profiles did not remained. Through the retelling of the history of research into this life-threatening act and the many factors that contribute it, this book begins to unravel the mystery of suicide attempts by young Latinas. Beginning with a description of the U.S. Hispanic population and the characteristics of the Hispanic family—its values, beliefs, norms, child-rearing—the book goes on to look at the development of young Latinas, girls straddling two cultures and struggling to reconcile them. Drawing on developmental, cultural and family psychology, acculturation and immigration theory and research, and the traditional and modern socialization of U.S. Hispanic girls, the book sets the stage for an in-depth look at the suicide attempts by Latinas. The book presents case studies and data collected from over 120 girls who attempted suicide and more than 110 who had not. It illustrates with the girls’ own words, and those of their parents, how social, psychological, family and cultural factors come together to a flashpoint. This book presents the anatomy of the experiences before, during and after the suicide attempt, suggests new ways of understanding suicide attempts, and offers ideas for prevention and treatment to save young Latinas.
Race-Conscious Districting in the USA
Anne Phillips

in The Politics of Presence
Published in print: 1998 Published Online: November 2003
Publisher: Oxford University Press DOI: 10.1093/0198294158.003.0004
Item type: chapter

Civil rights litigation in the USA successfully interpreted the 1965 Voting Rights Act as implying the right of minority voters to elect the candidates of their choice. This gave the impetus to ‘race-conscious districting’, which created voting districts in which minority citizens (primarily Black and Latino) formed a voting majority. This chapter explores the success of this in raising the proportion of black representatives but also the problems this mechanism has generated. It uses this case study to argue the importance of combining a politics of ideas with a politics of presence.

Public Catholicism
Timothy Matovina

in Latino Catholicism: Transformation in America's Largest Church
Published in print: 2011 Published Online: October 2017
Publisher: Princeton University Press DOI: 10.23943/princeton/9780691139791.003.0007
Item type: chapter

This chapter explore how the growing Hispanic presence makes the ramifications of moral and social issues more imminent in numerous parishes. In this context, Catholic teachings such as those on justice and civic responsibility are more salient when embodied in local organizing initiatives that enable grassroots people to address community concerns and participate in the decision-making processes affecting them and their families. Arguably, the most significant contribution Latino Catholics make to public Catholicism is the various ways they reveal that the sometimes-harsh realities of everyday pastoral work are the ordinary means through which the church lives out its mission to transform lives, communities, and society.
The Jungle Revisited? Racial Realism in the Low-Skilled Sector
John D. Skrentny

in After Civil Rights: Racial Realism in the New American Workplace

Published in print: 2013 Published Online: Princeton University Press
October 2017 DOI: 10.23943/princeton/9780691159966.003.0005

This chapter focuses on low-skilled employment. It shows that employers have a racial hierarchy of preference and that they rely on word-of-mouth hiring to attract Latino and Asian workers with the racial and/or immigrant abilities they prize. The chapter gives special attention to meatpacking, a sector that has been racially remade in the past few decades. It then explores the ways Title VII of the Civil Rights Act should prevent this kind of hiring and shows how judges have created new opportunities for employers to use word-of-mouth hiring to build and maintain their Latino and Asian workforces without running afoul of the law. This chapter also shows how two other laws, the Immigration Reform and Control Act and the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act, would seem to prohibit immigrant realism but have nonetheless failed.

International And Cross-Cultural Studies
Harriet P. Lefley

in Family Psychoeducation for Serious Mental Illness

Published in print: 2009 Published Online: Oxford University Press
September 2009 DOI: 10.1093/acprof:oso/9780195340495.003.0008

This chapter states that family psychoeducation (FPE) is increasingly being applied in multiple cultural contexts, rural and urban. Most FPE offer the basic content of education about mental illness and problem-solving techniques. Almost all have yielded findings of symptom reduction and fewer hospitalizations. Special programs developed for ethnic communities in the UK, the US, and Australia are described, with materials reflecting cultural values or norms added to basic FPE content. Suggestions for adapting FPE content and examples of illness management training for Latino patients with schizophrenia are presented, with research results. Examples of FPE and data from a large number of countries, primarily from Europe and Asia, and one from Latin America, are presented. The European Commission Study explored both the impact of training for staff professionals and the results of their FPE interventions in six countries in Europe. Exceptionally rigorous FPE
studies in China, and others in Thailand and Japan, have also produced positive findings.

“There Goes the Neighborhood”
Gary Alan Fine and Bill Ellis
in The Global Grapevine: Why Rumors of Terrorism, Immigration, and Trade Matter
Published in print: 2010 Published Online: September 2010
DOI: 10.1093/acprof:oso/9780199736317.003.0005
Item type: chapter

Hazleton, Pennsylvania, was typical of many working-class communities in America recently impacted by a rapid increase in the Latino population. Itself made up of the descendants of previous immigrants from Europe a century ago, the community might have been expected to understand and tolerate the newcomers. But in fact, the change was marked by a wave of xenophobia, with rumors blaming crime and cultural decay on the new residents, and the reaction climaxed with the passage of a new city law imposing harsh penalties on undocumented aliens. Later, one such immigrant was confronted and beaten to death on the street of a nearby town. The area's angry reaction can be understood in the context of local politics, influenced by nationally circulated claims that “illegal immigrants” were tied to criminal gang activity, drug dealing, and cynical appropriation of free government services.

Beauty, Affection, and Devotion
Jennifer Scheper Hughes
in Biography of a Mexican Crucifix: Lived Religion and Local Faith from the Conquest to the Present
Published in print: 2009 Published Online: February 2010
DOI: 10.1093/acprof:oso/9780195367065.003.0008
Item type: chapter

The annual celebration of the fiesta in honor of the Cristo Aparecido is aesthetic rather than penitential in nature. Tenderness and affection, rather than pity or sorrow, are the emotions with which devotees most commonly regard their santo Cristo. At the beginning of the twenty-first century, devotion to the Cristo Aparecido finds new expression in the exercise of transnational religion: migrants from Mexico travel to and fro across the U.S. Mexican border, settling in San Juan Capistrano. In this southern California locale, immigrants immerse themselves in
the religious life of the local Catholic church at the same time that they continue to organize and participate in the annual fiesta in Totolapan.

Cultural Adaptation Styles and Health
Paul R. Smokowski and Martica Bacallao

in Becoming Bicultural: Risk, Resilience, and Latino Youth
Published in print: 2011 Published Online: March 2016 DOI: 10.18574/nyu/9780814740897.003.0005

This chapter examines the impact of cultural adaptation styles on the mental health, health, and adjustment in Latino immigrant adolescents and adults. Drawing on theoretical frameworks combined with empirical research on acculturation and health behavior, the chapter explores mental health differences between foreign-born Latino immigrants and U.S.-born Latinos. It shows that higher levels of assimilation are associated with negative health behaviors and mental health difficulties for both Latino adolescents and adults, and that Latinos who have become more assimilated to the host culture display higher levels of alcohol and drug use. It also considers how acculturation relates to youth violence, dating violence, self-directed violence, internalizing problems such as depression and anxiety, and sexual behavior.

The Latino Migration Experience in North Carolina, Revised and Expanded Second Edition
Hannah Gill
Published in print: 2018 Published Online: May 2019 DOI: 10.5149/northcarolina/9781469646411.001.0001

Now thoroughly updated and revised—with a new chapter on the Dreamer movement and the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals Program (DACA)—this book offers North Carolinians a better understanding of their Latino neighbors, illuminating rather than enflaming debates on immigration. In the midst of a tumultuous political environment, North Carolina continues to feature significant in-migration of Mexicans and Latin Americans from both outside and inside the United States. Drawing on the voices of migrants as well as North Carolinians from communities affected by migration, Hannah Gill explains how larger social forces are causing demographic shifts, how the state is facing the challenges and opportunities presented by these changes, and how migrants experience the economic and social realities of their lives.
Gill makes connections between our hometowns and the globalization of people, money, technology, and culture by shedding light on the many diverse North Carolina residents who are such a vital part of the state’s population but are often unrecognized in many ways. This book is essential for everyone, including students and teachers, who wants to understand what is at stake for all parties and wants to work toward solutions.

Social Work with Latinos
Melvin Delgado

Despite evidence showing Latinos to be among the fastest growing populations in the US, very little attention has been given to practice with Latino individuals, families, and communities. Beginning with a comprehensive definition and demographic map of Latinos, Latino culture, and a cultural asset paradigm, this book identifies strategies for designing culturally relevant programs and services. Chapters highlight health and social concerns including issues surrounding gender, religion, language, immigration, substance abuse, and health conditions. More importantly, the chapters also outline a practice framework that places cultural assets at the center. The book provides a rich paradigm for understanding perspectives on culture, access, assets, and how they intersect to inform best practices. The step-by-step framework guides through six stages: pre-contact assessment, initial contact and asset identification, resource mapping, relationship building, intervention, and evaluation. Each stage is heavily grounded in theoretical and socio-political considerations with particular attention to thinking critically about selecting best practices and how to sustain an evidence-based practice.

Introduction
Michael D. Minta

This introductory chapter sets out the book's purpose, namely to demonstrate via an analysis of congressional oversight activities that
black and Latino legislators provide superior substantive representation of minority interests compared to white legislators. The book shows that black and Latino legislators are more likely to advocate on issues such as racial profiling and affirmative action. They are also more likely to intervene in agency decision making by attending, testifying, and engaging in deliberations at congressional oversight hearings in support of minority interests. Moreover, minority legislators write more letters urging agency officials to pursue the enforcement of civil rights policies, and they spend significant time and effort promoting and advocating for class-based solutions that benefit all racial and ethnic groups, such as efforts to end poverty and increase Medicaid and community development funding. An overview of the subsequent chapters is also presented.

Race, Ethnicity, and a Theory of Substantive Representation in Congressional Oversight

Michael D. Minta

in Oversight: Representing the Interests of Blacks and Latinos in Congress

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Item type: chapter

This chapter outlines the relationship between race, ethnicity, and substantive representation via an in-depth discussion of how racial and ethnic group consciousness operates among black and Latino representatives in Congress. While all members of Congress face the pressure of making the right decisions to increase their chances at reelection, black and Latino legislators, unlike most white legislators, face an additional pressure: they are motivated by a group norm that requires them to engage in collective group action on issues of concern to other blacks and Latinos. White legislators are mainly responsible for being responsive to the constituents in their districts, whereas black and Latino legislators are also expected to represent the interests of all blacks and Latinos nationally. The strategy they pursue of “strategic group uplift” falls at the intersection of their electoral goals and their commitment to advance group interests.
“Black” Cultural Capital and the Conflicts of Schooling
Prudence L. Carter

in Keepin’ It Real: School Success Beyond Black and White
Published in print: 2007 Published Online: May 2012
Publisher: Oxford University Press
DOI: 10.1093/acprof:oso/9780195168624.003.0017
Item type: chapter

This chapter examines how and why race, ethnicity, and culture influence students' academic behaviors. It discusses Pierre Bourdieu's cultural capital theory, which explains how the cultural codes and symbols of high status or dominant social groups become integral in the practices and sensibilities of schools and other social organizations and consequently how these cultural practices yield advantages disproportionately to members of those particular groups. It describes how low-income African American and Latino students negotiate their usage of both dominant and non-dominant cultural capital.

Between A “Soft” And A “Hard” Place
Prudence L. Carter

in Keepin’ It Real: School Success Beyond Black and White
Published in print: 2007 Published Online: May 2012
Publisher: Oxford University Press
DOI: 10.1093/acprof:oso/9780195168624.003.0018
Item type: chapter

This chapter examines differences in educational approaches between female and male African American and Latino students. It discusses the feminization of “acting white” and other cultural styles associated with the white mainstream and investigates why males are more likely to fall into the noncompliant category, as opposed to in the groups of cultural straddlers or cultural mainstreamers. It suggests that parental reinforcement of how males and females “do” gender influences differences in academic approaches.

New “Heads” And Multicultural Navigators
Prudence L. Carter

in Keepin’ It Real: School Success Beyond Black and White
Published in print: 2007 Published Online: May 2012
Publisher: Oxford University Press
DOI: 10.1093/acprof:oso/9780195168624.003.0034
Item type: chapter
This chapter describes low-income African American and Latino students' primary social networks and discusses the so-called multicultural navigators as social capital. It explains that multicultural navigators are individuals who harvest the cultural resources both from their own ethnic or racial heritages and from the opportunities provided outside of their communities. The analysis suggests that being upwardly mobile and achievement-oriented is a necessary, but not a sufficient, condition for one to be a multicultural navigator. It contends that as social capital, multicultural navigators provide critical social ties for co-ethnic members who are less fluent or less successful in navigating mainstream expectations.

School Success Has No Color
Prudence L. Carter

in Keepin' It Real: School Success Beyond Black and White
Published in print: 2007 Published Online: May 2012
Publisher: Oxford University Press
DOI: 10.1093/acprof:oso/9780195168624.003.0040
Item type: chapter

This chapter highlights the multiple connections between culture and identity among a specific group of low-income African American and Latino students and their particular responses to a structural phenomenon. It presents evidence on the importance of culture on the academic achievement of minority students and provides another articulation of the meanings of “acting white”. It argues that a trinity of social forces, that include race, class, and gender, dictates much about how “acting black”, “acting Spanish”, and of “acting white” emerge as cultural phenomena and become integrated into the identities of minority students.

Introduction
Prudence L. Carter

in Keepin' It Real: School Success Beyond Black and White
Published in print: 2007 Published Online: May 2012
Publisher: Oxford University Press
DOI: 10.1093/acprof:oso/9780195168624.003.0010
Item type: chapter

This introductory chapter discusses the theme of this volume, which is about the influence of race, ethnicity, and culture on the success of low-income African American and Latino students in school. It focuses on the experiences of groups of low-income African American and Latino male
and female youths living in particular families and attending specific schools in Yonkers, New York. It examines the social tension between students' educational and career aspirations and their confrontations with a hierarchy of cultural meanings within schools. It analyzes how these minority students deploy culture to gain status, a complex story that is better understood as a continuum of cultural attachments rather than a reflection of their educational values.

The Policy Backlash
Marisa Abrajano and Zoltan L. Hajnal

in White Backlash: Immigration, Race, and American Politics

Published in print: 2015 Published Online: October 2017
Publisher: Princeton University Press
doi:10.23943/princeton/9780691164434.003.0007
Item type: chapter

This chapter examines the implications of white backlash for the policy decisions of state legislatures, focusing on five policy areas: health care, criminal justice, education, taxation, and spending decisions. Using data from the National Association of State Budget Officers as well as a range of other sources, it shows that Latino population size has an impact on policies tied to immigrants and Latinos. In states with larger Latino populations, public goods provision drop significantly, and funds for welfare, health, and education all decline. Once the Latino population passes a threshold, however, policy outcomes become more pro-Latino. These results provide evidence that while blacks continue to represent a threat to some white Americans and their presence affects state welfare spending, Latinos are becoming much more central in the policy-making process.