Racial Identities in the Americas

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Main Objectives

Define three main concepts of race in the Americas

Compare Latin American & U.S. racial terminologies

Examine race relations in Hispanic Caribbean

Analyze racialization of Latinos in the U.S.
Euro-America

Basic criterion: ancestry

Primary racial division: whites vs. nonwhites

Binary opposition between people of European & other origins
The Southern Cone

Majority population of European ancestry

Small minority of indigenous or African descent
Irish Dance School in Argentina
Indo-America (Red) & Afro-America (Green)
Indo-America (or Mestizo America)

Basic criterion: culture

Whites/ladinos/mestizos vs. indios/cholos

Continuum of groups of Amerindian & European origin
Faces of Indo-America
Castas in Colonial Mexico

1. De español é india produce mestizo
   español1, india2, mestizo3
“Mulato and Mestiza
Beget Toma Atrás”
Afro-America (or Plantation America)

Basic criterion: physical appearance

Primary division: whites & light-skinned mulattoes vs. blacks

Continuum of groups of African & European origin
Race in the Caribbean, ca. 2010

- Barbados
- Belize
- Cuba
- Dominican Republic
- Haiti
- Jamaica
- Puerto Rico
- Suriname
- Trinidad & Tobago
- U.S. Virgin Islands

- Black
- White
- Asian
- Amer-indian
- Other
Race in Cuba

White
• Blanco, rubio, blanco orillero, blanco lechoso, colorao, albino, blanco capirro

Brown
• Mulato, blanconazo, mulato color cartucho, mulato chino, moro, indio, mestizo, trigueño, moreno, jabao, chino

Black
• Negro, negro-azul, negro color teléfono, negro coco timba, negro cabeza de puntilla
Race Relations in Contemporary Cuba
Racial Inequality in Cuba
“Yucas”
A Marielito
Race in the D.R.

White

- Rubio, blanco, pelirrojo, blanco jipato, rosadito, albino, lechoso, desteñido

White/mulatto

- Blanco jojoto, indio lavao, indio claro, indio fino, trigueño, trigueño claro

Mulatto

- Pinto, pinto jovero, jabao, indio canelo, mestizo, ligado

Mulatto/black

- Trigueño oscuro, indio quemao, indio sucio

Black

- Moreno, prieto, negro, cenizo, coco, azulito
Haitian Immigrants in the D.R.
Racial Diversity among Dominican Americans
Race in P.R.

White
• Blanco, blanquito, colorao, rubio, cano, jincho, papujo, albino, guaynabito?

Mulatto
• Blanco con raja, trigueño, jabao, moreno, mulato, mestizo, indio, café con leche, piel canela

Black
• Negro, grifo, prieto, de color, molleto, negrito, cococho?
The Puerto Rican Case

- Ambiguous & fluid racial categories
- Emphasis on phenotype (especially skin color & hair type)
- Constant use of euphemisms & diminutives
- Recognition of racially intermediate types
Dominican Immigrants in P.R.
The Dominant Discourse on Race in P.R.

- Conflation of class & color
- Silencing of race in public discourse
- Metaphor of the “three roots”
- Widespread celebration of mestizaje
- Hispanophilia vs. Negrophobia
- Ideology of blanqueamiento (“whitening”)
The “Whitening” of Puerto Rico in the Census (%)
Blanqueamiento in the Arts
Puerto Rican Migrants during the 1930s & 1940s
Racial Classification of U.S. Puerto Ricans (%)
New York’s Puerto Rican Parade
### U.S. vs. Hispanic Caribbean Racial Discourses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>U.S.</th>
<th>Hispanic Caribbean</th>
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<tr>
<td>- Hypodescent</td>
<td>- Phenotype/class</td>
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<td>- Black/white binary</td>
<td>- Tripartite/color continuum</td>
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<td>- Jim Crow segregation</td>
<td>- Myth of mestizaje/racial democracy</td>
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<td>- Strong racially based organizations</td>
<td>- Weak racially based mobilization</td>
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Racializing Latinos in the U.S.

Confusing “race” and “Hispanic origin”

Creating non-Hispanic whites, non-Hispanic blacks, Hispanics

Difficulty of disaggregating Hispanics by race

The “some other race” label
Are Latinos Becoming a “Third Race”?
Hispanic or Latino by Race, 2010

- **Mexican**
  - White: 50%
  - Other Races: 25%
  - Black: 7%
  - Some Other Race: 2%
  - Two or More Races: 12%

- **Puerto Rican**
  - White: 62%
  - Other Races: 15%
  - Black: 10%
  - Some Other Race: 5%
  - Two or More Races: 8%

- **Cuban**
  - White: 95%
  - Other Races: 5%

- **Dominican**
  - White: 85%
  - Other Races: 15%
Latinos Can Be of Any Race
Multiracial Families
# Racial Discrimination Against Latinos in the U.S.

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<th>Residential Segregation</th>
<th>Labor Market Segmentation</th>
<th>Educational Disadvantage</th>
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<td>• Inner-city barrios</td>
<td>• Low-status occupations &amp; industries</td>
<td>• High school dropout rates</td>
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<td>• Low proportions of college graduates</td>
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Other Racially Based Issues Faced by Latinos

- Media portrayals
  - Hollywood movies
  - Prime time TV

- Language politics
  - Rejection of bilingual education

- Racial profiling
  - Stigmatizing undocumented residents

- Electoral representation
  - 17% of population, 11% of voters, 7% of Congress
Conclusions

Multiple constructions of race in the Americas

Different racial taxonomies in Latin America, Caribbean, & U.S.

Incongruence between Hispanic Caribbean & U.S. racial discourses

Increasing racialization of Latinos in the U.S.
A Postracial Future?