



Racial Identities in the Americas

Jorge Duany

Florida International University

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.



**Charles
Wagley,
"On the Concept
of Social Race in
the Americas"
(1959)**

Euro-America

Basic criterion: ancestry

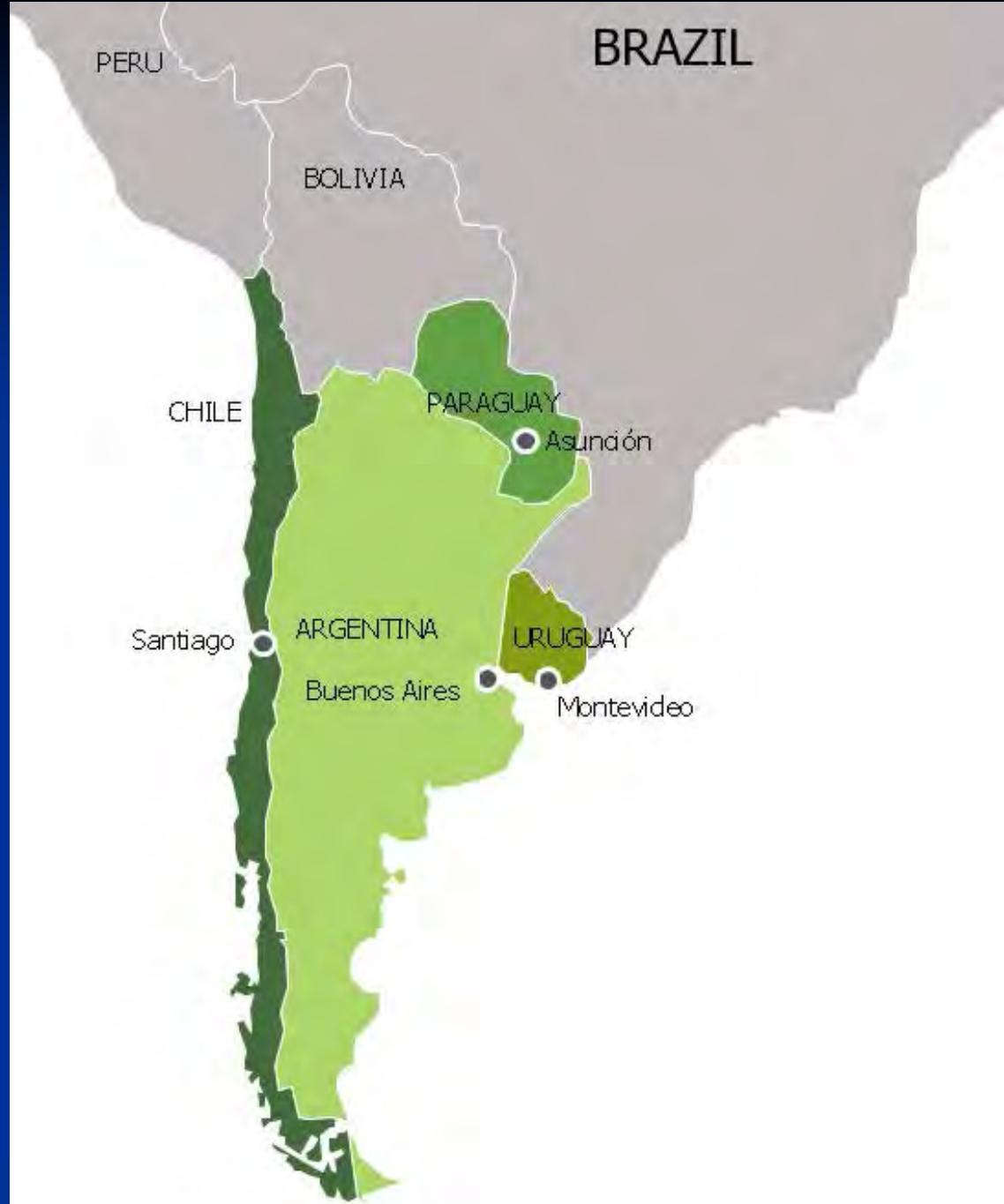
Primary racial division: whites vs. nonwhites

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



De español ^{1.} é india.
produce mestizo
español ^{1.} india ^{2.} mestizo ^{3.}

UNO DE LOS MESTIZOS
PRODUCE MULATO
EL TORNAR ATRAS.



*"Mulato and Mestiza
Beget Torna Atrás"*

Afro-America (or Plantation America)

Basic criterion: physical appearance

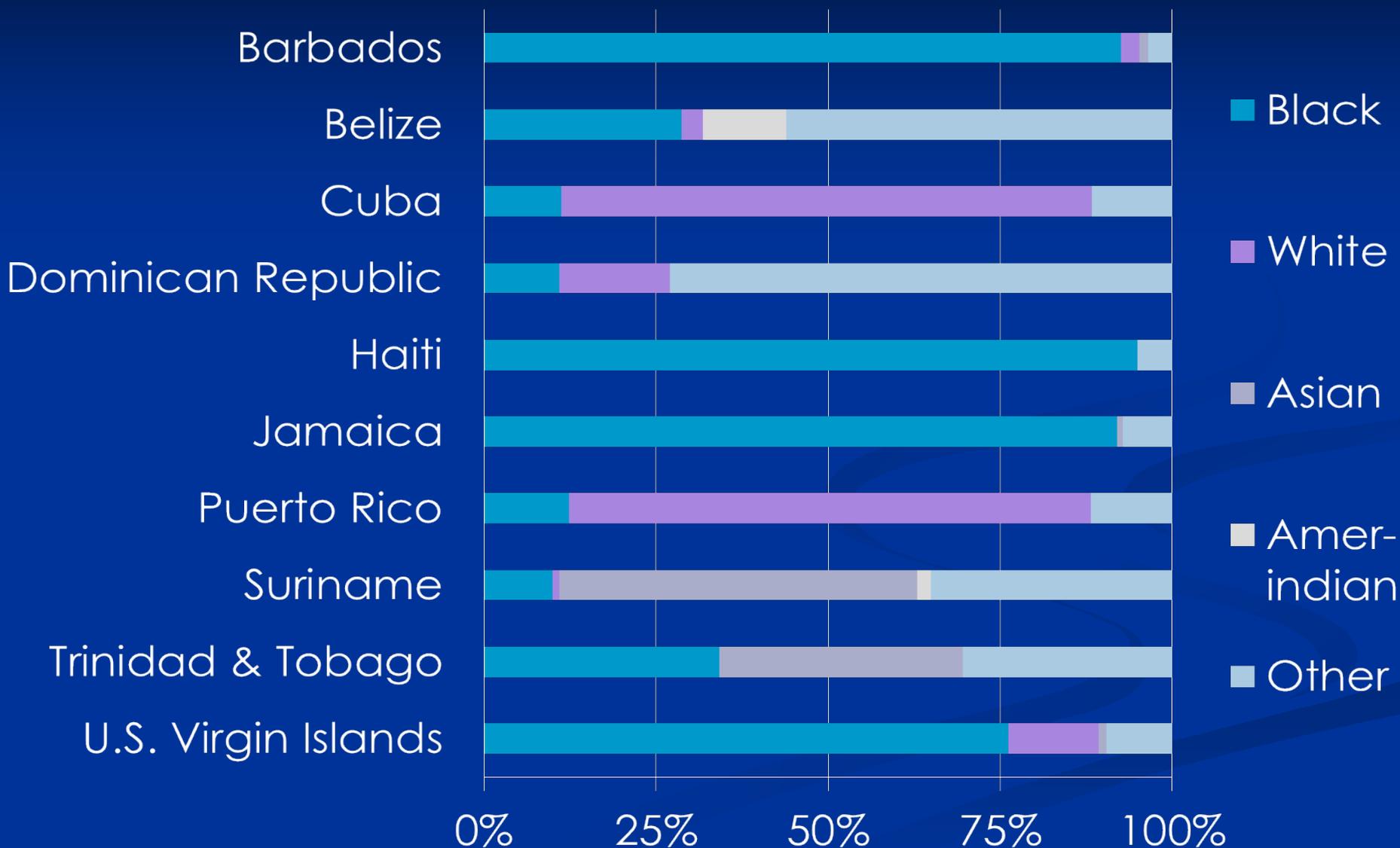
Primary division: whites & light-skinned
mulattoes vs. blacks

Continuum of groups of African &
European origin

African Slavery



Race in the Caribbean, ca. 2010



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, desteñado

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, cocolo, 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, cocolo?*

The Puerto Rican Case

Ambiguous &
fluid racial
categories

Constant use of
euphemisms &
diminutives

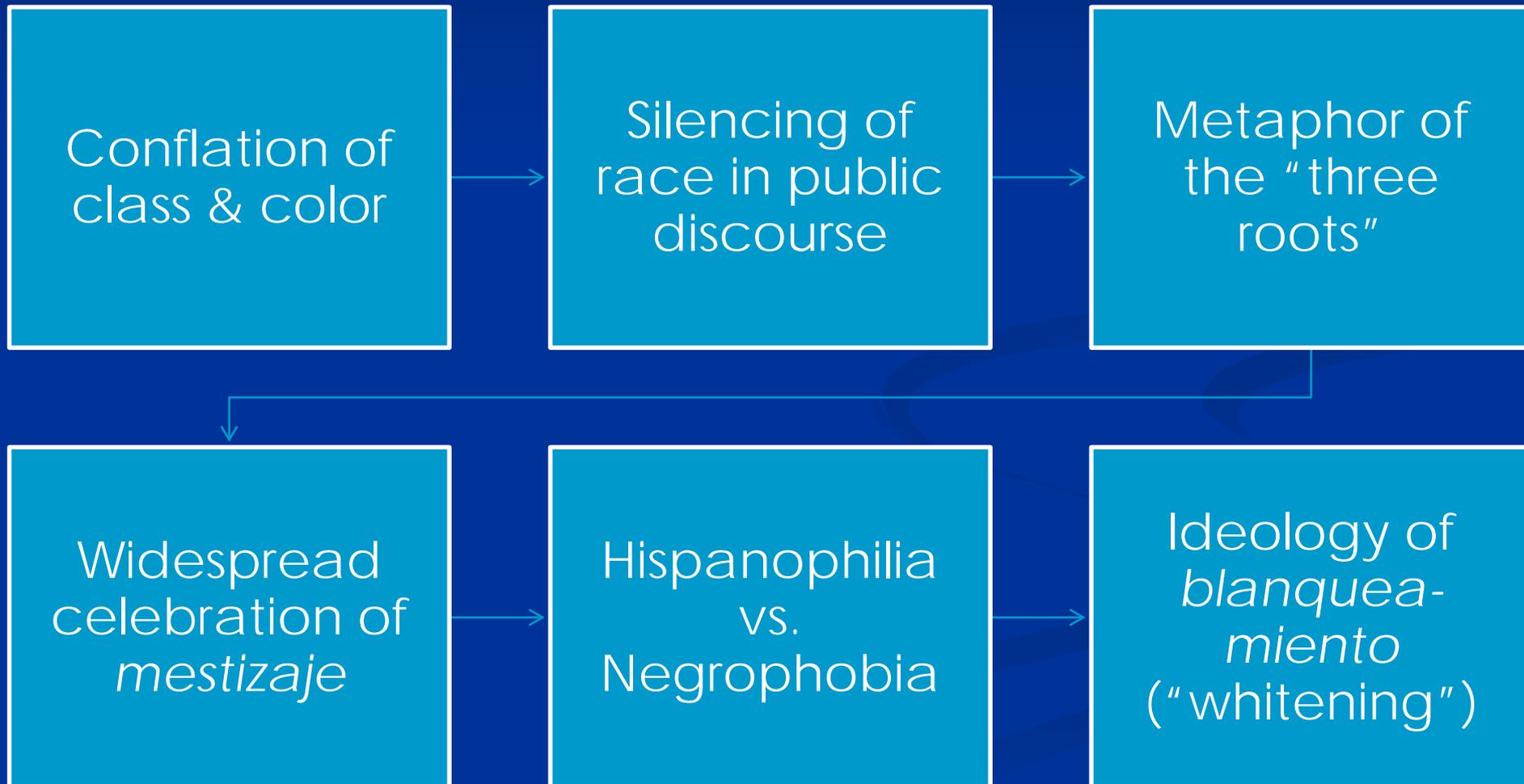
Emphasis on
phenotype
(especially skin
color & hair type)

Recognition of
racially
intermediate
types

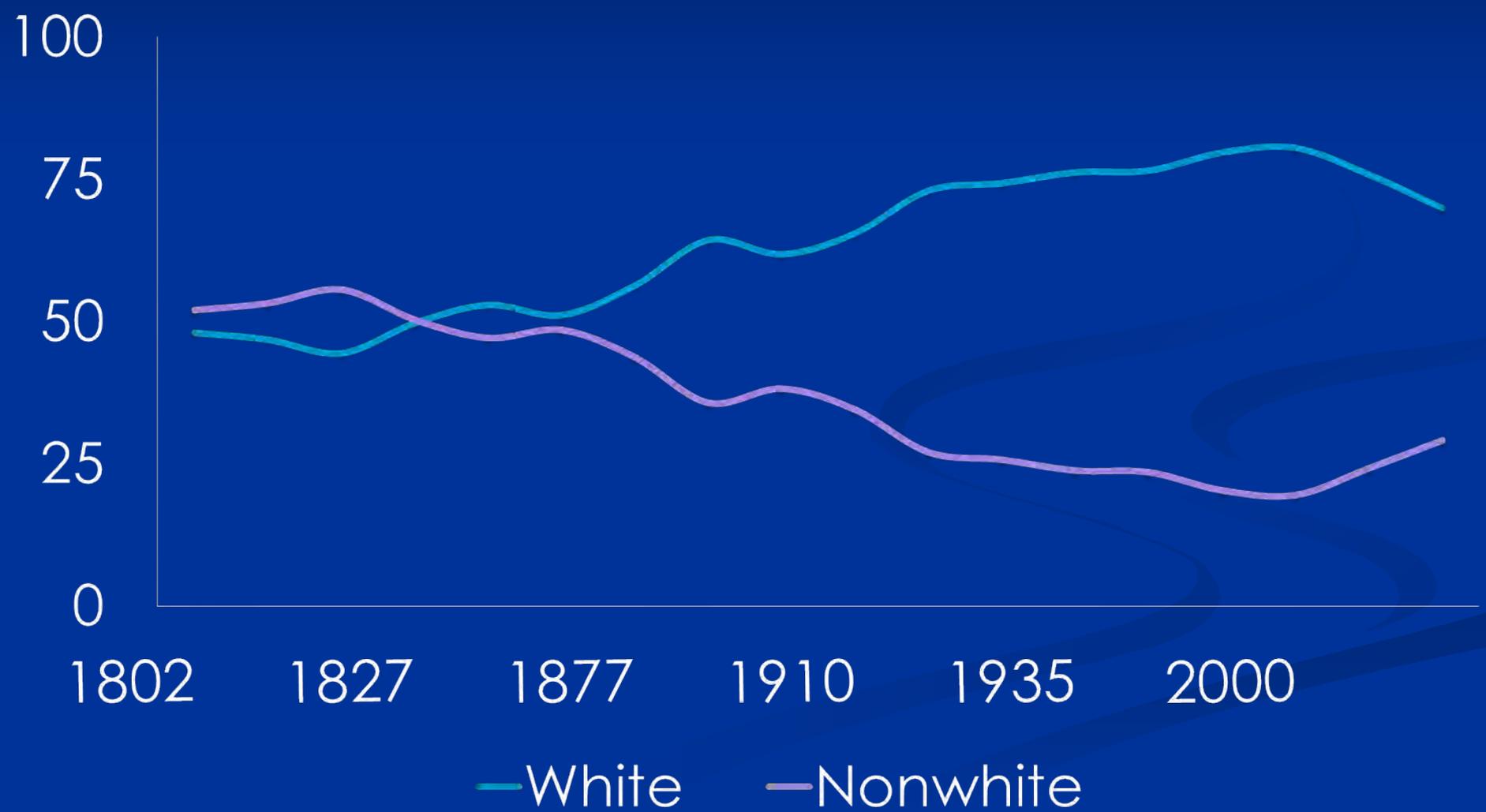


Dominican Immigrants in P.R.

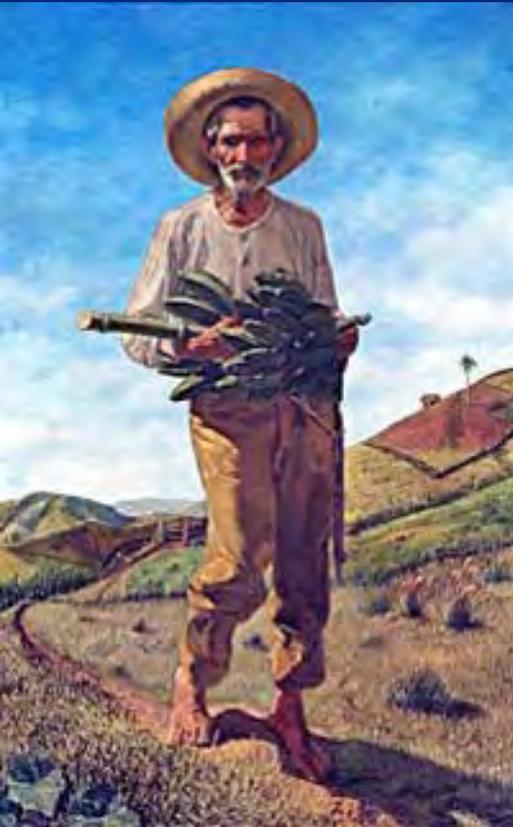
The Dominant Discourse on Race in P.R.



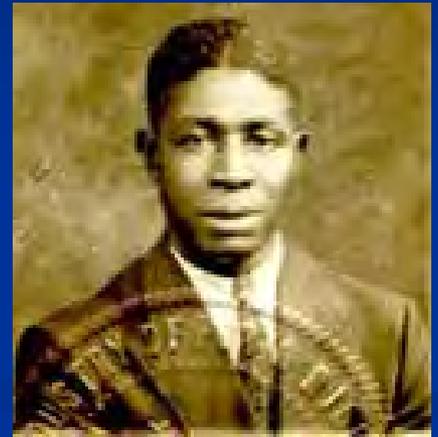
The "Whitening" of Puerto Rico in the Census (%)



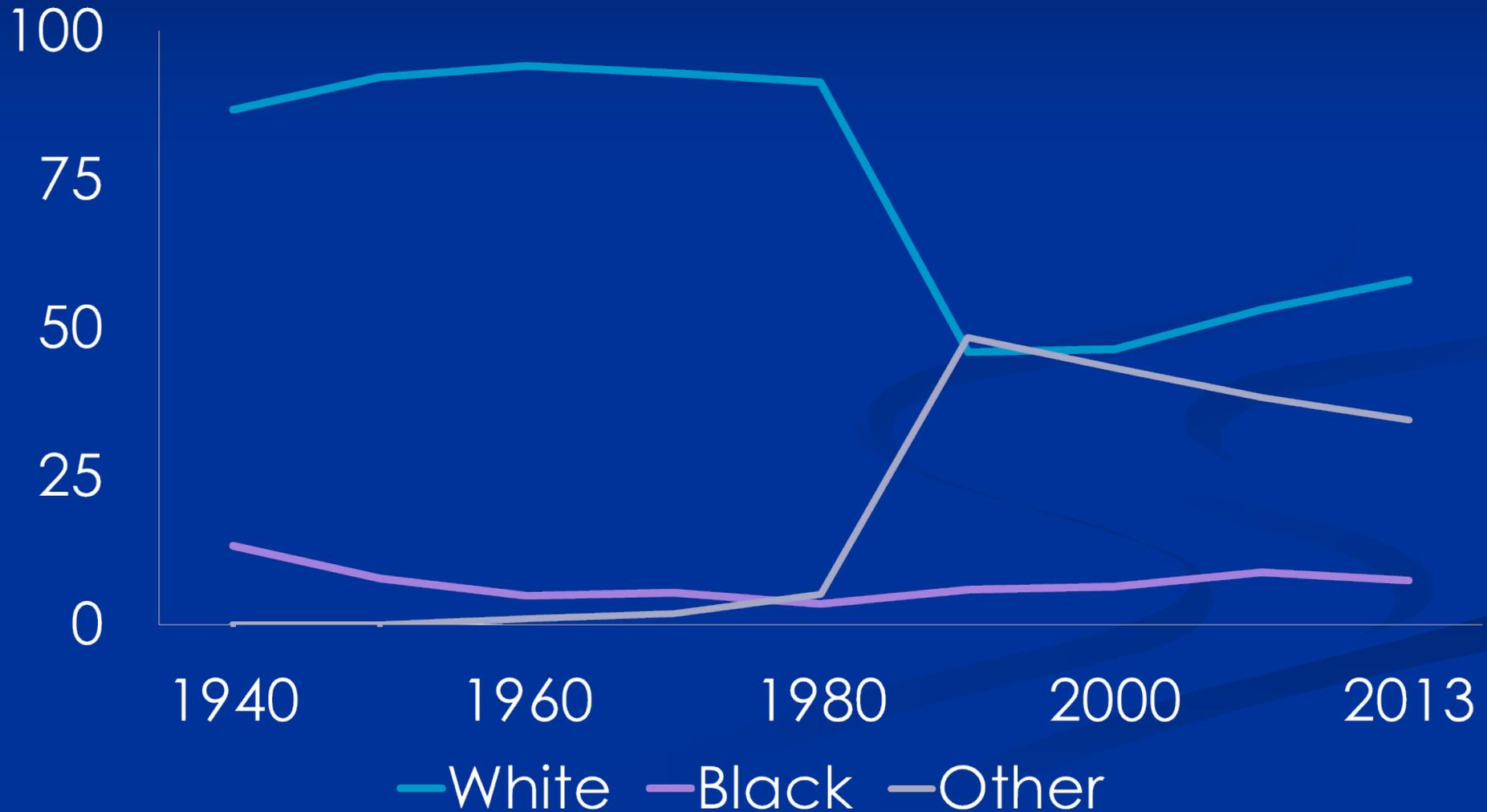
Blanqueamiento in the Arts



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

U.S.

- Hypodescent
- Black/white binary
- Jim Crow segregation
- Strong racially based organizations

Hispanic Caribbean

- Phenotype/class
- Tripartite/color continuum
- Myth of *mestizaje*/ racial democracy
- Weak racially based mobilization

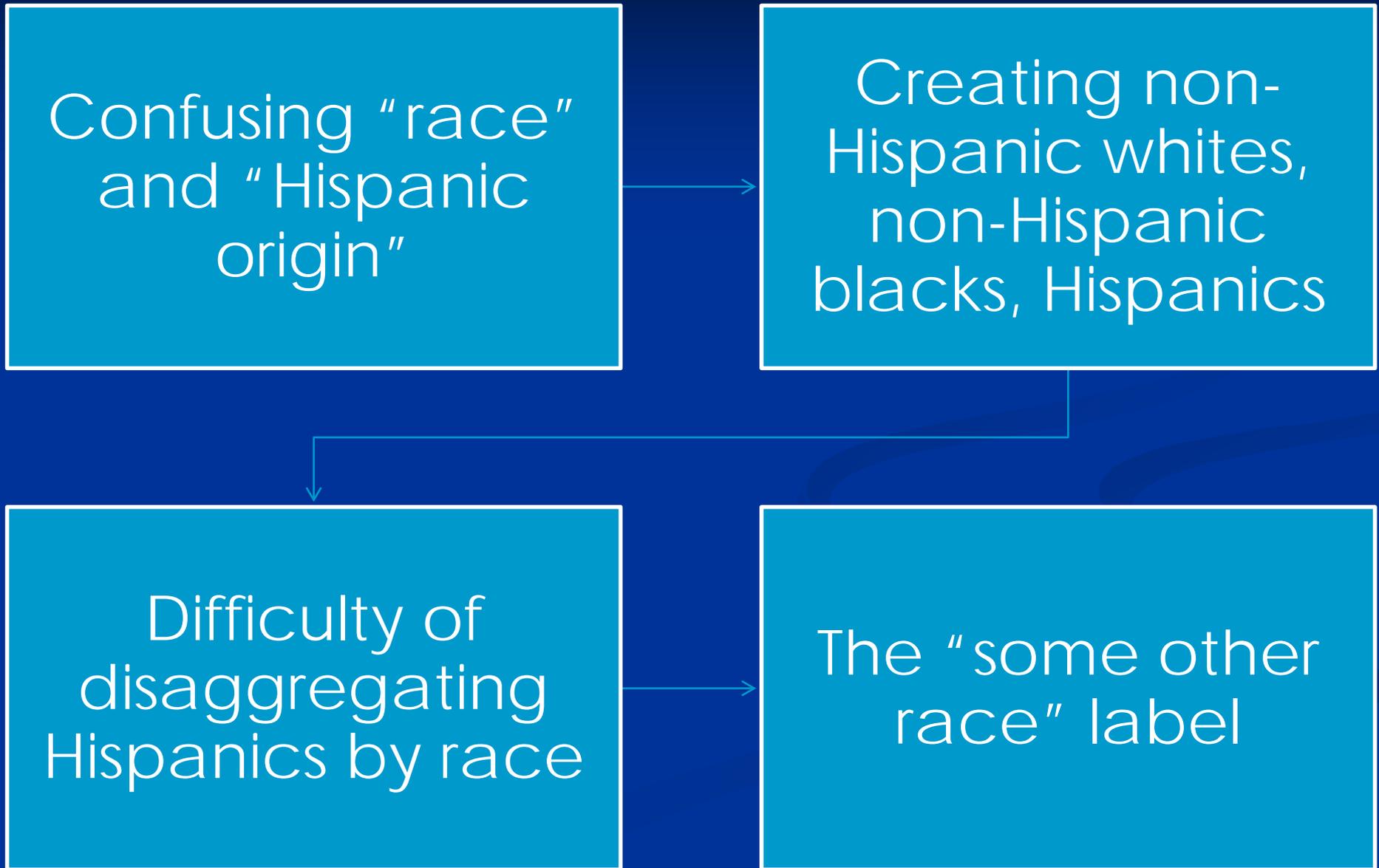
Racializing Latinos in the U.S.

Confusing "race"
and "Hispanic
origin"

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

Difficulty of
disaggregating
Hispanics by race

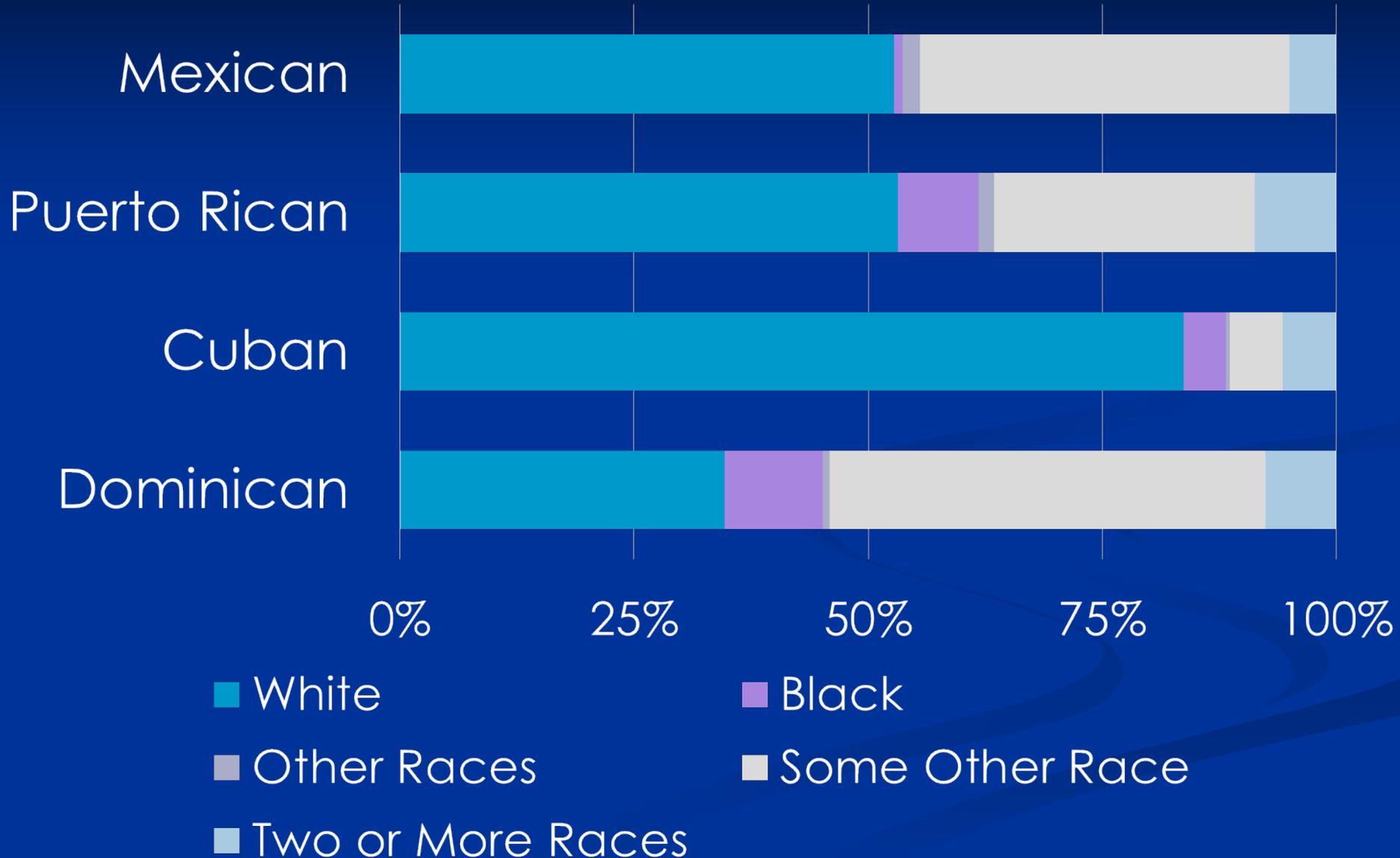
The "some other
race" label





**Are Latinos Becoming
a "Third Race"?**

Hispanic or Latino by Race, 2010





Latinos Can Be
of Any Race



Multiracial Families



Racial Discrimination Against Latinos in the U.S.

Residential segregation

- Inner-city barrios

Labor market segmentation

- Low-status occupations & industries

Educational disadvantage

- High school dropout rates
- Low proportions of college graduates

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.

SPECIAL ISSUE

TIME

Take a good look at this woman. She was created by a computer from a mix of several races. What you see is a remarkable preview of ...

THE NEW FACE OF AMERICA

How Immigrants Are Shaping the World's First Multicultural Society



A Postracial Future?