Record Nr. UNINA9910171018003321
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Titolo Navigating Interracial Borders: Black-White Couples & their Social

Worlds

Pubbl/distr/stampa Rutgers University Press

Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (264 p.)

Disciplina 306.846

Lingua di pubblicazione Francese

Formato Materiale a stampa

Livello bibliografico Monografia

Sommario/riassunto

Is love color-blind, or at least becoming increasingly so? Today's popular rhetoric and evidence of more interracial couples than ever might suggest that it is. But is it the idea of racially mixed relationships that we are growing to accept or is it the reality? What is the actual experience of individuals in these partnerships as they navigate their way through public spheres and intermingle in small, close-knit communities? In Navigating Interracial Borders, Erica Chito Childs explores the social worlds of black-white interracial couples and examines the ways that collective attitudes shape private relationships. Drawing on personal accounts, in-depth interviews, focus group responses, and cultural analysis of media sources, she provides compelling evidence that sizable opposition still exists toward blackwhite unions. Disapproval is merely being expressed in more subtle. color-blind terms. Childs reveals that frequently the same individuals who attest in surveys that they approve of interracial dating will also list various reasons why they and their families wouldn't, shouldn't, and couldn't marry someone of another race. Even college students, who are heralded as racially tolerant and open-minded, do not view interracial couples as acceptable when those partnerships move beyond the point of casual dating. Popular films, Internet images, and pornography also continue to reinforce the idea that sexual relations between blacks and whites are deviant. Well-researched, candidly written, and enriched with personal narratives, Navigating Interracial

Borders offers important new insights into the still fraught racial hierarchies of contemporary society in the United States.