1. Record Nr. UNINA9910255119303321
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Titolo Experiences of Women of Color in an Elite US Public School / / by

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Pubbl/distr/stampa Cham:,: Springer International Publishing:,: Imprint: Palgrave

Macmillan, , 2017

ISBN 3-319-50633-1

Edizione [1st ed. 2017.]

Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (XIII, 216 p. 3 illus.)

Disciplina 306.43

Soggetti Educational sociology

Child development

Gender identity in education

Ethnicity

Sociology of Education
Early Childhood Education
Gender and Education
Ethnicity Studies

Lingua di pubblicazione Inglese

Formato Materiale a stampa

Livello bibliografico Monografia

Nota di bibliografia Includes bibliographical references and index.

Nota di contenuto Chapter 1. The World of Mayfair -- Chapter 2. Two-Ness and Liminality

in Mayfair -- Chapter 3. The Making of Community -- Chapter 4. Athletes and Boundary Breakers -- Chapter 5. Bridge Builders and Cultural Guides -- Chapter 6. The Acquisition of Cultural Capital --

Chapter 7. Race, Place, and the Power of Interactions. .

Sommario/riassunto This study explores the experiences of women of color who attended

an elite, predominantly white public high school in the Northeastern United States through one of three points of entry: as town residents attending their local high school, or as commuter or boarding students via two distinct voluntary racial desegregation programs. Women in all three groups experience feelings of marginalization and stigma. At the same time, many also discuss the benefits of having lived in or attended school in this environment. Women developed strong internal bonds within and across their respective groups, some were able to racially diversify social networks and increase access to new forms of

social capital through both their own initiatives and efforts on the part of adults in the school and community, and many also discuss the acquisition of elite forms of cultural capital that have served them into adulthood. Even with these general trends, point of access clearly mediates the experience, with geographic and symbolic boundaries varying by group.