



The Post-Racial Mystique: Media and Race in the Twenty-First Century (Critical Cultural Communication)

By Catherine R. Squires

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Despite claims from pundits and politicians that we now live in a post-racial America, people seem to keep finding ways to talk about race—from celebrations of the inauguration of the first *Black* president to resurgent debates about police profiling, race and racism remain salient features of our world. When faced with fervent anti-immigration sentiments, record incarceration rates of Blacks and Latinos, and deepening socio-economic disparities, a new question has erupted in the last decade: What does being post-racial mean?

The Post-Racial Mystique explores how a variety of media—the news, network television, and online, independent media—debate, define and deploy the term “post-racial” in their representations of American politics and society. Using examples from both mainstream and niche media—from prime-time television series to specialty Christian media and audience interactions on social media—Catherine Squires draws upon a variety of disciplines including communication studies, sociology, political science, and cultural studies in order to understand emergent strategies for framing post-racial America. She reveals the ways in which media texts cast U.S. history, re-imagine interpersonal relationships, employ statistics, and inventively redeploy other identity categories in a quest to formulate different ways of responding to race.

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The Post-Racial Mystique: Media and Race in the Twenty-First Century (Critical Cultural Communication) By Catherine R. Squires Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #1554562 in Books
- Published on: 2014-04-04
- Released on: 2014-04-04
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.00" h x .61" w x 6.00" l, .0 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 243 pages

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Editorial Review

Review

“Far too many Americans today see ‘race’ self-deludingly through the foggy lens of ‘post-racism.’ Catherine R. Squires dispels the fog with this insightful study of the enduring grip of ‘race’ over American life.”-John Downing,co-author of *Representing ‘Race’: Racisms, Ethnicity and the Media*

“With rigor and accessible style, Catherine R. Squires provides an excellent view of the history and contemporary terrain of media and racial discourse in all of its complexity. *The Post-Racial Mystique* will be a defining book in our long-lasting and complicated conversation about the interrelationship between race and media.”-Charlton McIlwain,co-author of *Race Appeal: How Candidates Invoke Race in U.S. Political Campaigns*

"Through a series of well chosen and meticulously analyzed case studies, Squires illuminates how postracialism came to be part of the national imaginary and makes a convincing argument for why it ultimately cannot camouflage the ways in which race still matters in the U.S. social life.”-*Journal of Communication*

About the Author

Catherine R. Squires is Associate Professor of Communication Studies at the University of Minnesota. She is the author of *Dispatches from the Color Line: The Press and Multiracial America*.

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