

## WHITE FRAGILITY

AFRS/SOC 1010: DECONSTRUCTING RACISM FALL 2019

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- Questions about Midterm Essays?
  - First Drafts due by 5 pm on Friday, October 4.
  - Do we want to peer-review first papers?
- Wednesday Visit with Beth Hoppe
- Monday Meet in Special Collections for Tour

## PREVIOUSLY . . .

White Privilege: unearned "privileges" that white people are argued to benefit from beyond those commonly experienced by people of color in the same social, political, political, and economic spaces.

the "privilege" comes in their invisibility to the group(s) who enjoy them; those who enjoy privilege can take social/cultural assumptions for granted.

"I don't have to worry about being monitored in a store when I go shopping."

Privilege is not exclusive to race:

- "I can apply to college without having to worry about the costs for admission."
- "I can dress how I want and worry that it won't be used as a defense if I get sexually assaulted."
- "I can go to a party and not have to question whether the object of my affection is heterosexual."

## White Privilege (?) Jennifer Sherman, Those Who Work, Those Who Don't

- Golden Valley High poverty rates understood as a result of deindustrialization and industrial restructuring (absence of job security).
  - Environmental policies on the federal and state levels disrupted Golden Valley's main industry.

    "Failure" defined as both individualistic and structural.
    - Men rejected service-sector jobs as "feminized" hoping to reclaim failed masculinity through guns and hunting.

Women often became breadwinners

- developed strategies for providing emotional support for husbands in the name of "morality."
  - endured domestic violence
  - refusing to leave Golden Valley, as it symbolized husbands' failed decision-making.
- working "the second shift" while men avoided housework and childcare responsibilities.
- women took welfare but spent food stamps outside area to avoid humiliation for being on government assistance.

Jennifer Sherman, I hose Who Work, I hose Who Don't	
Morality as a strategy for survival (moral capital)	
Governmental Assistance (disability more "honorable" than welfare).	
Women's strategies for survival (deference to husbands) an effort to keep the family unit in tact.	
Moral capital enables Golden Valley Residents compare their "worth" relative to African Americans (which they	
think of as pathological).	
Rely on individualistic rhetorics ("American Dream") to establish a racial order that positions them as morally superior to communities of color.	
Despite being poor; they want to work to provide their families.	
Despite being poor; they do not engage in illegal activities to keep their families afloat (and those	
who do are no better than black urban residents.	
Despite their differences with the white working class children/parents employing colorblind ideologies	
(White Kids), they are deploying similar racial logics.	
Today	
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White Privilege (?)

Four(?) Frames of "the new racism"	
abstract liberalism	
naturalization	
cultural racism	
minimization of race	
white fragility(?)	
Word(s) of the Day: Microaggression	
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