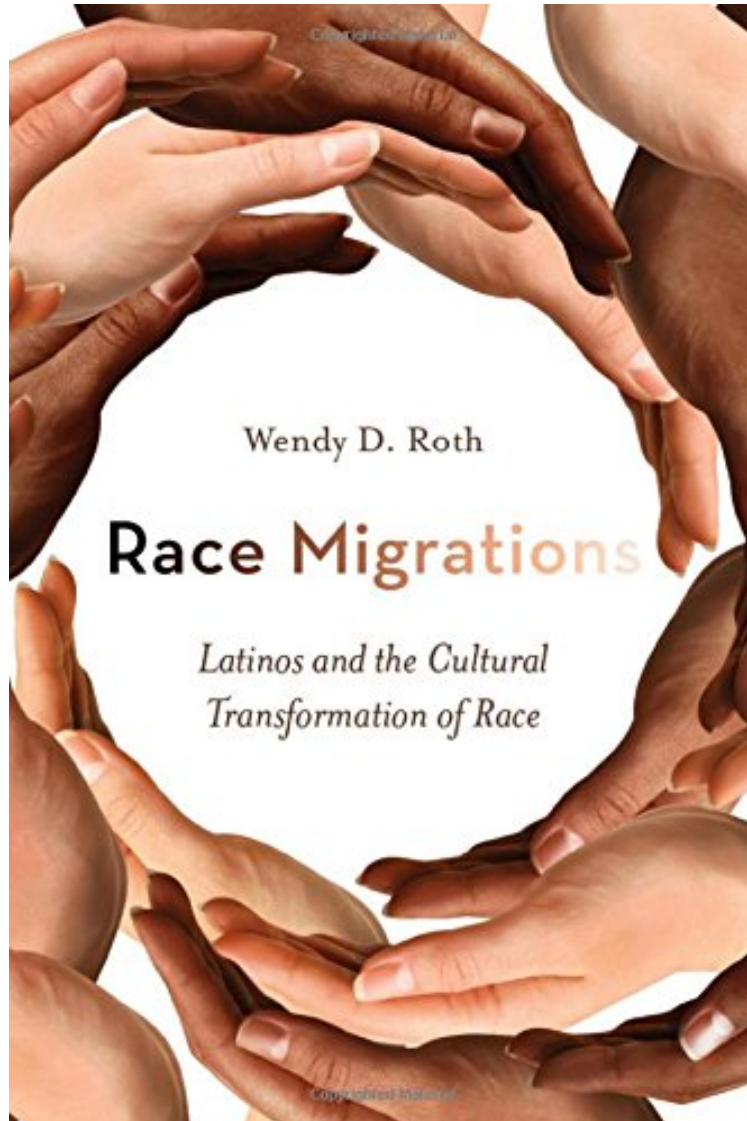


[Download] Race Migrations: Latinos and the Cultural Transformation of Race

Race Migrations: Latinos and the Cultural Transformation of Race

Wendy Roth

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#974238 in Books Stanford University Press 2012-06-13 2012-06-13 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.00 x .70 x 6.00l, .79 #File Name: 0804777969268 pages | File size: 73.Mb

Wendy Roth : Race Migrations: Latinos and the Cultural Transformation of Race before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Race Migrations: Latinos and the Cultural Transformation of Race:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Roth's methodology and writing style were great! I enjoyed the book. By Patty Fernandez Roth's methodology and writing style were great! I enjoyed the book, but would say that my biggest criticism is they attempt to make this generalizable to all Latinos. Here's what I would say: Roth's description

of a "cognitive portfolio" of racial schemas is an EXCELLENT way to think about race and can be fairly general. It was useful, new to me, and a really useful way to think about the flexibility of racial classifications/thought, particularly when conceptions of race in Latin America are fairly different than U.S. conceptions of race (which are dominated by a black/white binary). However, it needs to be clear that Roth is describing Puerto Ricans and Dominicans. It's an awesome insight to both and she adeptly justifies why these populations are focused on in the book. That being said, I think that the claim in the title that this is necessarily about all Latinos, or even a large number of Latinos is a bit hard to agree with, because she picked two populations that have fairly different racial compositions than, say, Peru, or Mexico, or Paraguay, etc. There's very little discussion of the indigenous element in conversations about "race" which is pretty vital when talking about Latino/Hispanic racial history. I also found that an argument about one of her respondents (the one who classified everyone as Black and White) to be extremely unconvincing. It sounded like that respondent was an outlier, and to build her into the theory felt pretty forced. Overall, though, lots of food for thought!

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Required Reading For Class
By Michelle Logan
Needed for class for my daughter, as described.
0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. An incredible contribution to our understanding of racial identity
By Julie Dowling
Roth's book focuses on the racial identification of Puerto Rican and Dominican migrants in New York City and non-migrants in both Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic. Drawing on extensive interviews with 120 respondents, Roth demonstrates the complexity of Latino racial identification. She argues that just as migrants adopt the language and some customs in a new country, they also acquire new ways of envisioning racial identification. However, she explains this new knowledge does not mean migrants abandon notions of race derived from their countries of origin. Using the concept of "racial schemas," Roth illustrates how Latino migrants simultaneously maintain multiple "schemas" for understanding race, drawing on both home and host country conceptions of race in highly contextual ways. Moreover, her book highlights how racial schemas also migrate across borders as migrants return home to visit, they relay information on racial concepts in the US. Hence, non-migrants who have not traveled may also adopt US racial terminology as part of the repertoire of racial schemas they draw upon. Her work thus emphasizes the transnational flow of racial schemas and their impact on racial labeling and identity processes. In addition to revealing the multiple coexisting racial schemas maintained by her interviewees, Roth's work also emphasizes the ways in which Latino identity often functions as a racial identity for her respondents. Her work clearly reveals the evolving racial configuration in the US and the importance of Latinos in shaping the future of race in this country. In sum, I believe Roth makes an incredible contribution to our understanding of racial thinking and processes. The book is also very accessible and would be a great addition to an undergraduate or graduate course.

In this groundbreaking study of Puerto Rican and Dominican migration to the United States, Wendy D. Roth explores the influence of migration on changing cultural conceptions of race for the newcomers, for their host society, and for those who remain in the countries left behind. Just as migrants can gain new language proficiencies, they can pick up new understandings of race. But adopting an American idea about race does not mean abandoning earlier ideas. New racial schemas transfer across borders and cultures spread between sending and host countries. Behind many current debates on immigration is the question of how Latinos will integrate and where they fit into the U.S. racial structure. *Race Migrations* shows that these migrants increasingly see themselves as a Latino racial group. Although U.S. race relations are becoming more "Latin Americanized" by the presence of Latinos and their views about race, race in the home countries is also becoming more "Americanized" through the cultural influence of those who go abroad. Ultimately, Roth shows that several systems of racial classification and stratification co-exist in each place, in the minds of individuals and in their shared cultural understandings of "how race works."

"Roth's superb study transcends the existing literature on migration and race by demonstrating how concepts of race and ethnicity are continually refashioned in a transnational space. Migrants maintain, adopt, and strategically utilize different racial schemas in constant reference to both their countries of origin and settlement. All future studies of how race 'travels' will have to engage the analysis presented here." (Michael Omi University of California, Berkeley, co-author of *Racial Formation in the United States*) "In this well-executed project, Roth is attentive to the interconnections between the macro and micro, such as how governmental policy, institutions, and people's everyday use of terms affect conceptions of race. . . A strong addition to scholarship, this book will be most useful to scholars and graduate students of race and ethnicity, migration, and American, Latino, and Latin American Studies." "This insightful ethnographic study of Puerto Ricans and Dominicans provides important clarifications regarding the nature of racial orders in the United States and the Hispanic Caribbean . . . The central contribution of the book is clear. Roth provides a useful conceptual framework for better understanding racial identity and classification . . . The book does well to describe each schema in detail, providing a clear rationale for why each constitutes a specific schema and why her informants use each . . . This book will . . . provoke instructive debates in classrooms and between forthcoming papers and studies, both theoretical and empirical." (Mosi Adesina Ifatunji *Social Forces*) "Wendy Roth's *Race Migrations* is rich with insights about one of the great puzzles of contemporary immigration—the impacts of immigration on racial

systems and of racial systems on immigrants. With scrupulous research and brisk writing, she traces the transportation and mutation of racial concepts in both directions between origin and destination societies." (Richard Alba The Graduate Center CUNY, author of *Blurring the Color Line*) "This is a transformative book that moves the discussion of 'race' to another (fascinating) level. Well researched, with extensive notes to each chapter, and with a clear research design, the work focuses on the question how immigration affects the way people both in the receiving and the sending countries think about race and classify themselves and others." (Clara E. Rodriguez) "[I]nnovative ethnographic fieldwork . . . Recommended." (E. Hu-DeHart CHOICE) "Anyone who believes that the American racial structure is characterized by unmovable white/black boundaries should read this book. Roth deftly analyzes the transformation of identification and categorization systems that have accompanied the accelerated immigration of Puerto Ricans and Dominicans in the United States, as well as the consolidation of a Latino identity on our shores and abroad. She parses out how new and different schemas are diffused at the micro level across classes. She also uses the tools of cultural sociology to significantly advance our understanding of the dynamics between ethnically and racially-based symbolic and social boundaries. The result is a dynamic and multidimensional analysis of processes of boundary work which should have a considerable impact on the field of immigration, race and ethnicity and on the study of transnationalism." (Michle Lamont Harvard University, author of *The Dignity of Working Men: Morality and the Boundaries of Race, Class, and Immigration*) "Wendy Roth has produced an important book on how Dominicans and Puerto Ricans transform their own understandings of race with immigration to the United States and, in the process, also transform American racial realities. In addition, our understanding of race as culture reaches a new level in Roth's insightful analysis." (Edward Telles Princeton University, author of *Race in Another America*)

About the Author Wendy Roth is Assistant Professor of Sociology at the University of British Columbia. She is coauthor of *Rampage: The Social Roots of School Shootings* (2004).