

American White Black: African Americans, Immigration, and the Limits of Citizenship

Friday, April 2, 2021 | 12:00PM - 1:30PM PDT

Will be held via Zoom (This Event May Be Recorded)



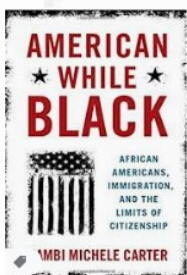
Author: Niambi Carter

Niambi Carter is Associate Professor of Political Science at Howard University. She received her Ph.D. in political science from Duke University (2007) with a specific focus on race and ethnic politics, Black politics, public opinion and political behavior in the United States.



Discussant: Efrén Pérez

Efrén Pérez is Professor of Political Science and Psychology at UC Los Angeles. His scholarship centers on political psychology, with specific interests in racial and ethnic politics, language and political thinking, implicit political cognition, and the measurement of political



Most studies of Black public opinion toward immigration tend to approach the issue through the lens of interminority coalition or competition in the contemporary moment (Greer, 2013; Masuoka and Junn, 2013; McClain et al., 2006, 2007, 2011). In general, what this literature has demonstrated is that Blacks have strong opinions about immigration but tend not to organize around the issue. This work argues that Blacks have an activist tradition around immigration; however, it has been for their own sake. Utilizing primary documents, I argue Black *emigration*, more popularly referred to as colonization or 'Back-to-Africa' movements, was part of a larger set of political strategies for Black liberation. Thus, I argue the issue of colonization was part of a two-tiered process prosecuted by Blacks to redress domestic exclusion. Thus, what Blacks were seeking vis-a-vis emigration was not a wholesale exodus from the United States, as much as they were seeking to win enough concessions to make continued existence in the United States possible. By taking this longer historical view, my work seeks to refine our understandings of Black behavior with respect to immigration by situating Black emigration as part of a stream of activism that had Black inclusion and incorporation as its primary objective whether in the United States or abroad.

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