

The Color Line: Realities of Race, Inequality and Public Policy

April 26, 2002, Georgetown University - 35 million Hispanics. 34.5 million Blacks. 10.5 million Asian Americans. 4 million Native Americans. The U.S. has moved beyond Black and White to become a complex mosaic of races and ethnicities. Recent decades brought progress in addressing gaps between different racial and ethnic groups, but disparities persist. Hispanics face falling wages in the labor market, declining college completion and stagnating academic progress. Blacks continue to experience poorer health and residential segregation. Hispanics, Blacks and other racial minority groups represent a large proportion of the criminal justice system. Different factors account for continued disparities among Hispanics, Blacks, Asians and other racial minority groups. This seminar discussed race-related policies and the need to consider diverse problems and work to create many ways to effectively address each group's needs.

Welcome:

Nakeisha Neal, Chair, Kiara of the Georgetown Public Policy Institute



Introduction:

Angela Bayer, Program Officer, Population Resource Center

Speakers:

Topic: America Becoming: The Growing Complexity of America's Racial Mosaic

Faith Mitchell, Ph.D., Director, Division of Social & Economic Studies, National Academy of Science

Topic: The Impact and Influence of Segregation

Doug Massey, Ph.D., Dorothy Swaine Thomas Professor of Sociology and Chair of the Sociology Department, University of Pennsylvania



Co-Sponsors:

Kiara of the Georgetown Public Policy Institute

Factoids:

"The problem of the 20th century will be the color line." *W.E.B. DuBois*

"While biological notions of race have little meaning, the society itself is extremely racialized."

James P. Smith, "Race and Ethnicity in the Labor Market," America Becoming: Racial Trends and Their Consequences, National Research Council, 2001

"A central question for public policy in the coming years will be how to build on the progress of past decades while addressing harmful disparities across ethnic populations and reversing negative trends. Tackling these issues while striking an equitable balance across the potentially competing needs of different ethnic populations is likely to pose an immense challenge for America in the 21st century." *America Becoming: The Growing Complexity of America's Racial Mosaic, "Population Matters Policy Brief, RAND, 2001*



"Segregation is the lynchpin of our racial system. Where you live determines so many things . . . education, wealth, employment."

Douglas S. Massey, Dorothy Swaine Thomas Professor of Sociology and Chair of Sociology Department, University of Pennsylvania

"Segregation in cities with high African American populations is on par with South Africa under apartheid." *Douglas S. Massey, Dorothy Swaine Thomas Professor of Sociology and Chair of Sociology Department, University of Pennsylvania*

In Attendance:

U.S. Department of Education

U.S. Department of Education, Office of Civil Rights

American University

Georgetown Public Policy Institute

Georgetown University, Department of Sociology

Georgetown University, Department of Government

Leadership Conference on Civil Rights

National Asian Pacific American Legal Consortium

Sexuality Information and Education Council of the U.S.

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