



Identifying and Understanding Structural Racism in Juvenile Justice

Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative Inter-site Conference

September 23, 2008

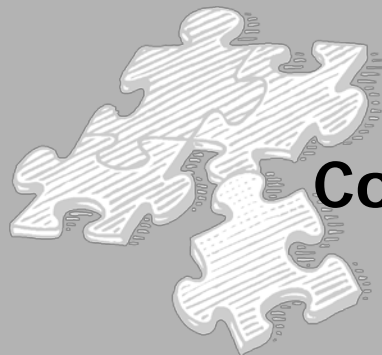
Aspen Institute Roundtable on Community Change



What is Structural Racism?

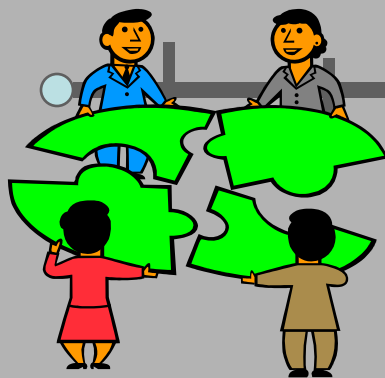
It describes the complex ways that history, public **policies**, institutional **practices** and cultural **representations** interact to maintain and justify inequitable racial group outcomes.

How is **Structural Racism** Different from other types of racism?

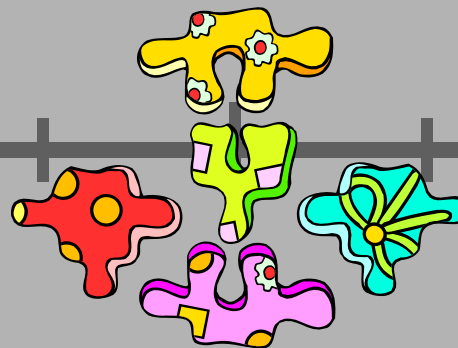


Common explanations of entrenched racial and/or ethnic disparity

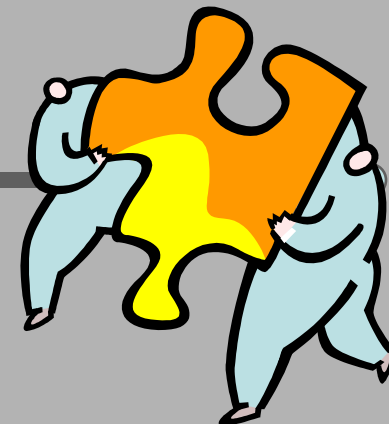
Structural



Institutional

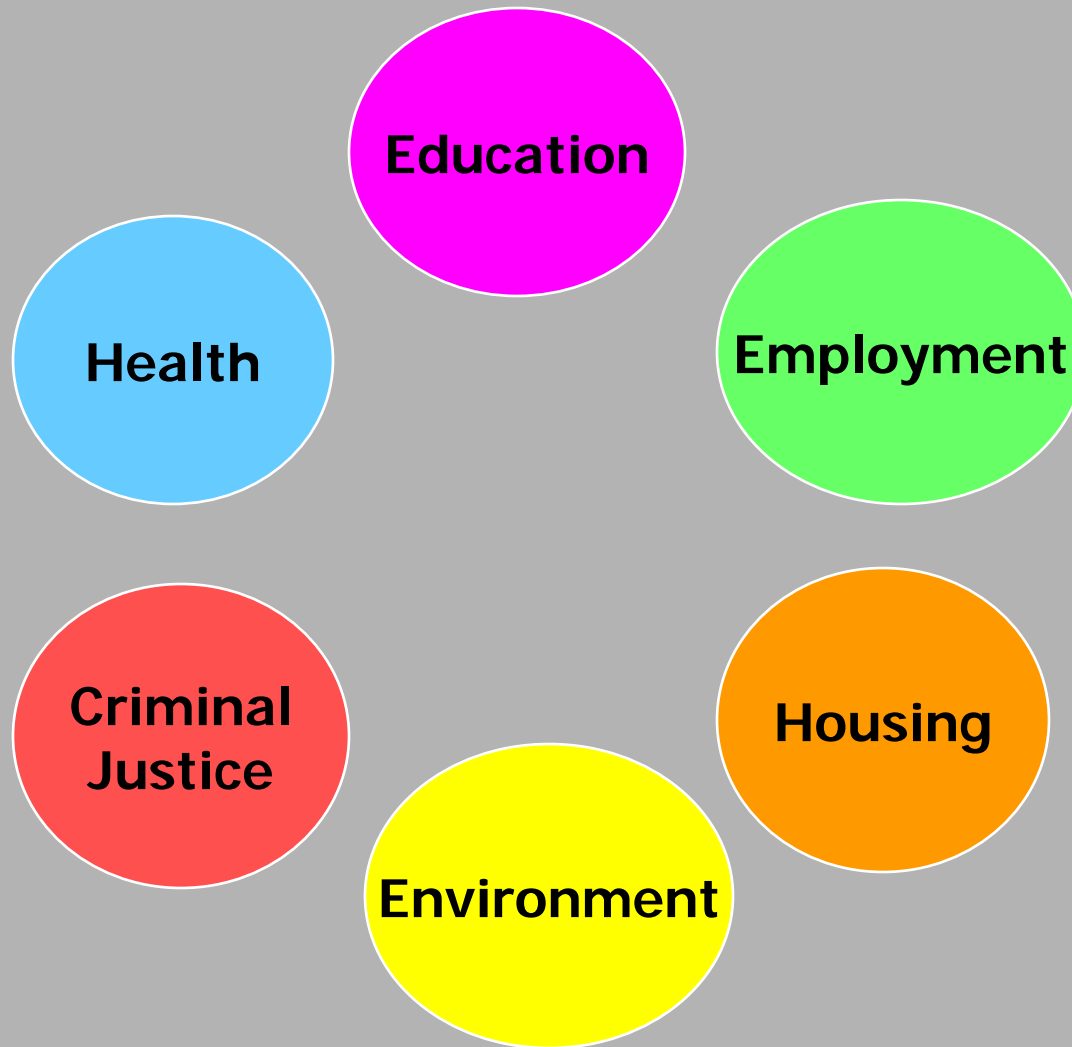


Individual



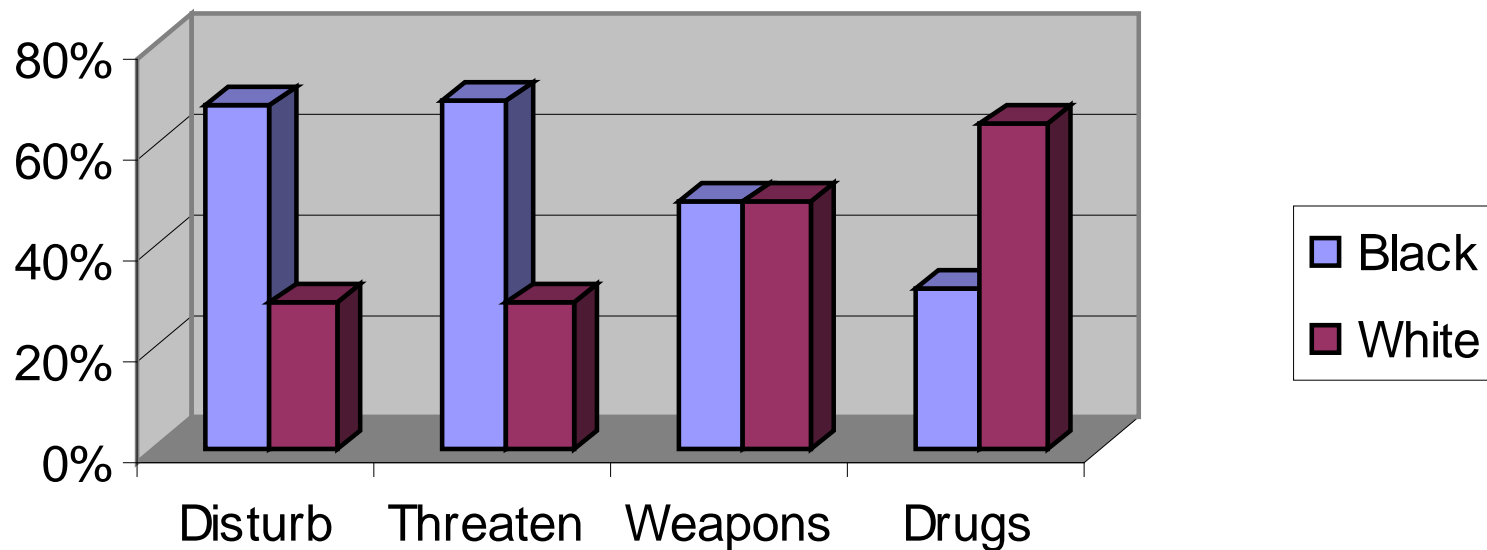


Institutional Racism



Structural Racism is Embedded in “Neutral” & “Equalizing” Institutions...

South Carolina Student Charges of Misconduct by Race



Source: Data from The Civil Rights Project Harvard University. “Opportunities Suspended: The Devastating Consequences of Zero Tolerance and School Discipline.” Harvard University. (2000): P.8

Institutional Manifestations: The Labor Market

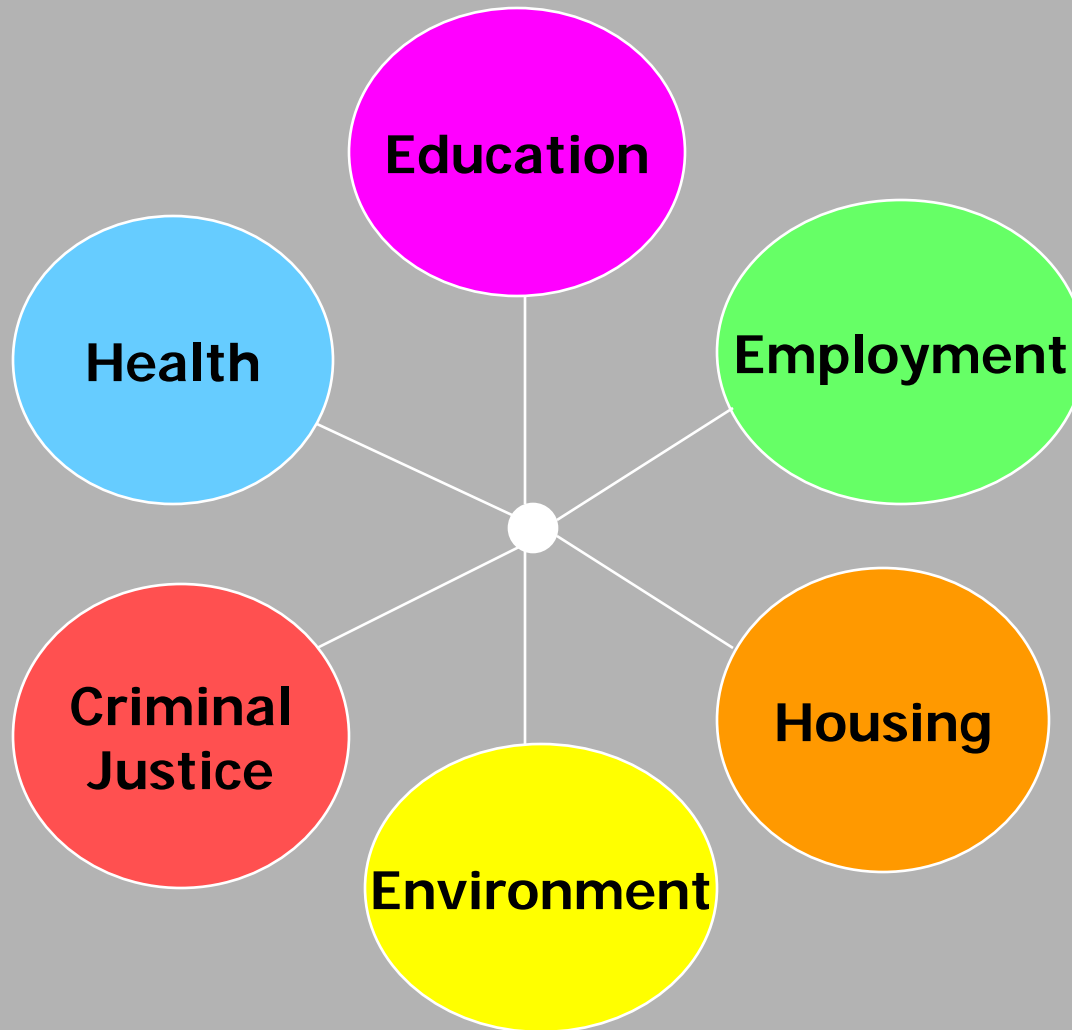
“Everything’s in a Name”

Percentage of applicants that received interview requests

<u>Common WHITE names</u>		<u>Common BLACK names</u>	
Kristen	13.6%	Ebony	10.5%
Carrie	13.1	Latonya	9.1
Laurie	10.8	Kenya	9.1
Meredith	10.6	Latoya	8.8
Sarah	9.8	Tanisha	6.3
Allison	9.4	Lakisha	5.5
Jill	9.3	Tamika	5.4
Anne	9.0	Keisha	3.8
Emily	8.3	Aisha	2.2
Average	10.3%	Average	6.9%

Source: Alan B. Krueger. Economic Scene: sticks and stones can break bones, but the wrong name can make a job hard to find. *The New York Times*. (December 1, 2002), C2.

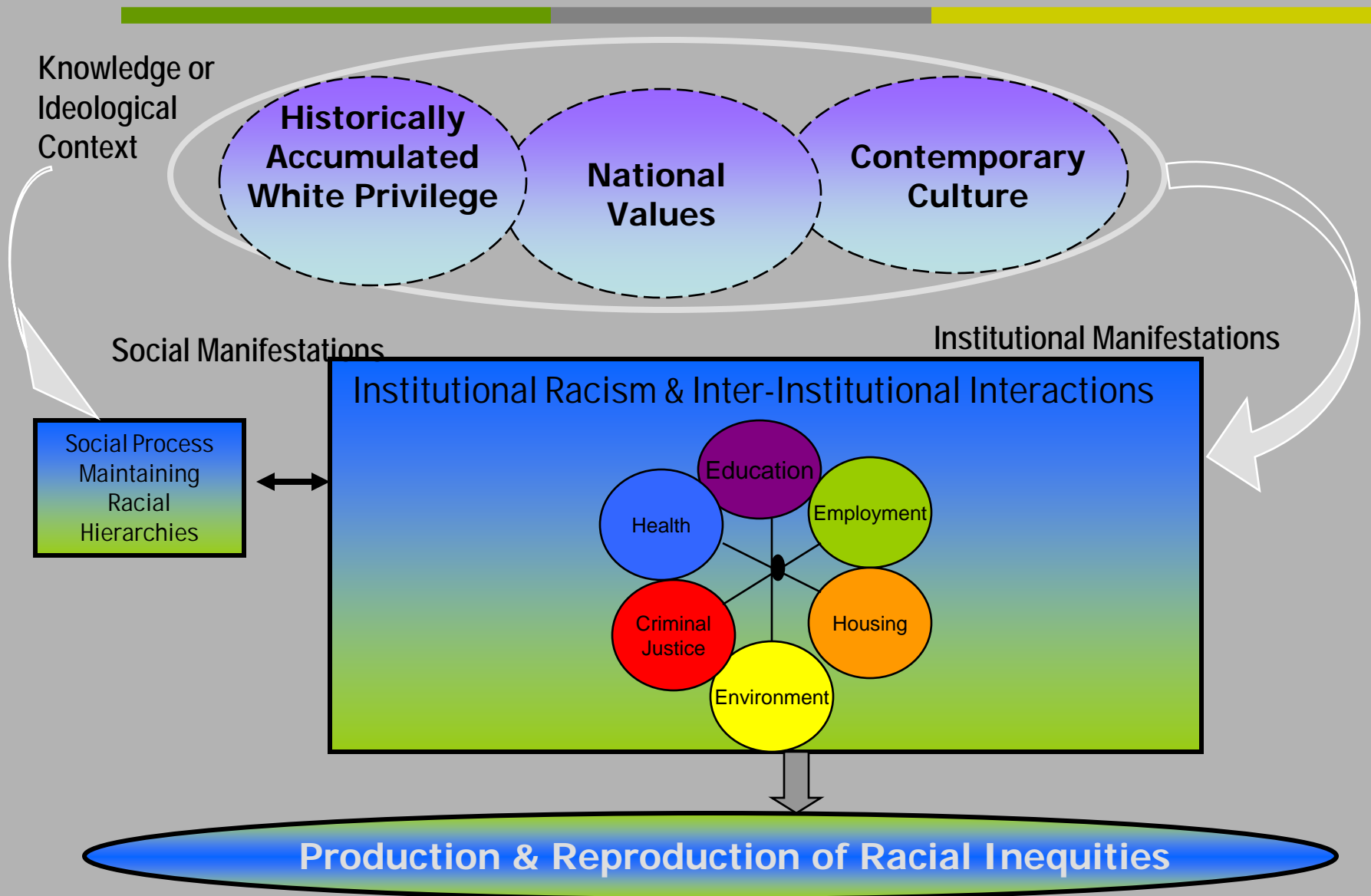
Institutional Racism: A Systems Perspective



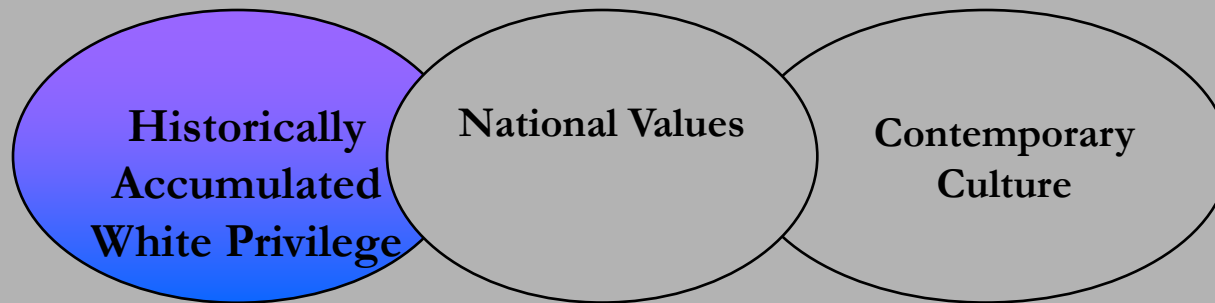
Structural Racism



Structural Racism and Racialized Outcomes



Knowledge and Ideological Context

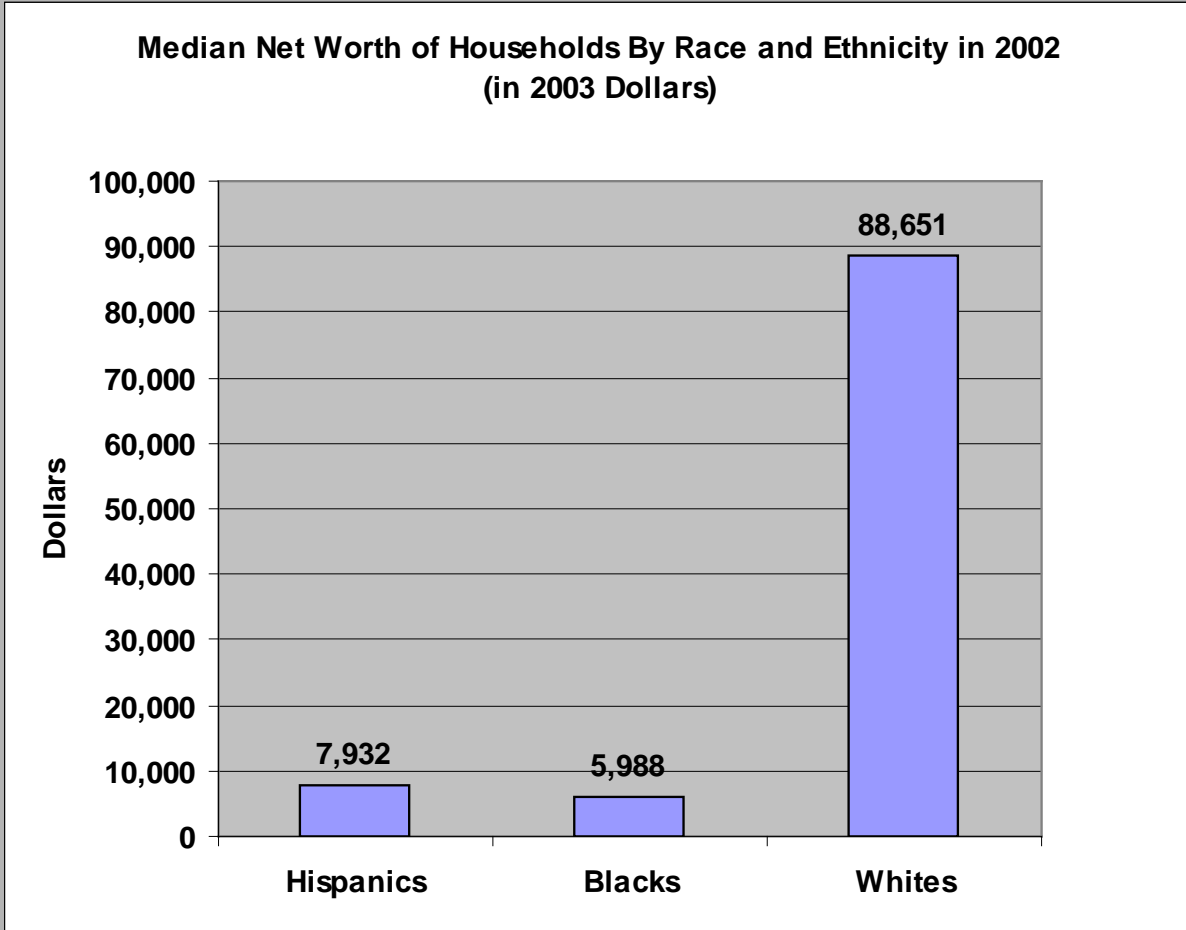


Whites' historical and contemporary advantages in access to: quality education, decent jobs, livable wages, home ownership, retirement benefits...

Resulting in part from the codification of race by our Legal system, Public policies and Institutional practices that benefited whites and disadvantaged people of color



White Privilege



Source: Kochhar, Rakesh. "The Wealth of Hispanic Households 1996-2002." Pew Research Center: 1996-2002.

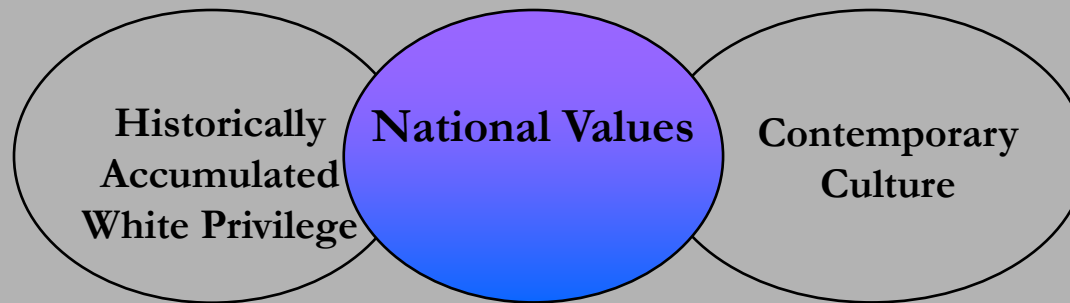
What is White Privilege?



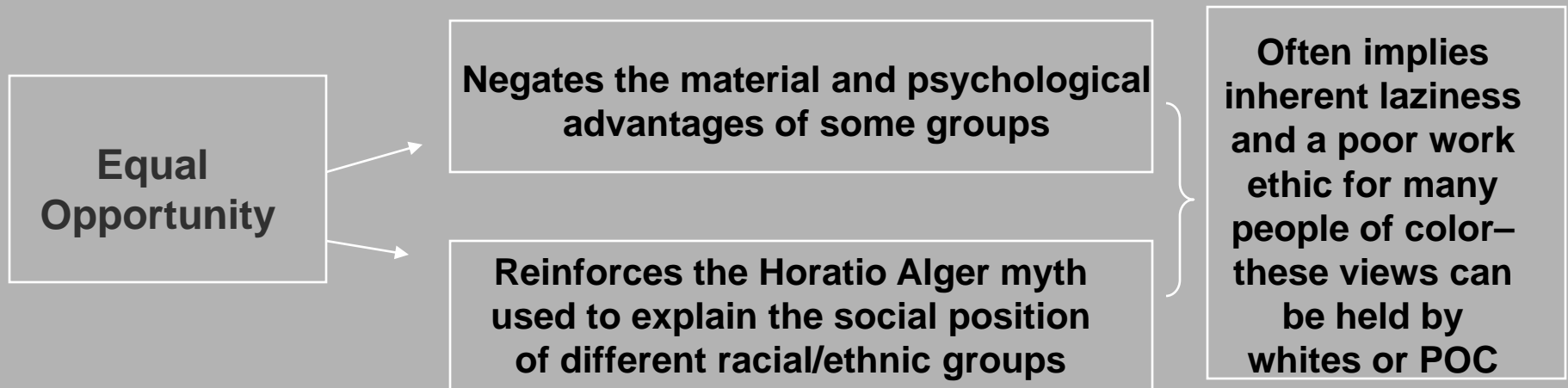
“...an invisible package of unearned assets which I can count on cashing in each day, but about which I was meant to remain oblivious....”

Source: Peggy Macintosh, “White Privilege: Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack”

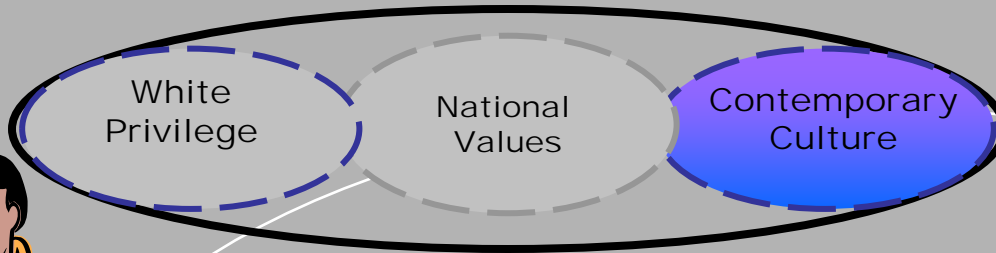
Knowledge and Ideological Context



National Values:
Meritocracy, Individualism, Equal Opportunity...



Knowledge and Ideological Context



Societal norms, values and practices reinforce racial stereotypes and emphasize “innate” capacities of different groups.

The media’s creation and perpetuation of racial stereotypes has been particularly pernicious.





Cultural Representations in Television and Print News

76% of people say they form opinions about crime from the news

- African Americans are over reported as perpetrators of crime
- African Americans are presented as more threatening than their white counterparts
- Paucity of positive information about and images of young men of color



Effects of Cultural Representations

- Perceptions of weapon possession
- Beliefs about perpetrators
- Attitudes about crime and beliefs about race

Racial Attitudes: Violence

	Prone	Not Prone	Neutral
Blacks	47.0	15.5	37.5
Hispanics	37.4	18.5	44.1
Asians	16.9	36.6	46.5
White	21.4	30.7	47.9

Source: 2000 National Opinion Research Center General Social Survey as cited in Young Men of Color in the Media: Images and Impacts, Robert M. Entman 2006, pg. 7.

Racial Attitudes: Intelligence

	Unintelligent	Intelligent	Neutral
Blacks	21.9	29.6	48.5
Hispanics	23.9	25.3	50.8
Asians	10.5	49.8	39.7
White	6.7	52.4	40.9

Source: 2000 National Opinion Research Center General Social Survey as cited in Young Men of Color in the Media: Images and Impacts, Robert M. Entman 2006, pg. 7.

Racial Attitudes: Hardworking

	Lazy	Hardworking	Neutral
Blacks	34.3	22.0	43.7
Hispanics	21.9	37.8	40.3
Asians	10.9	57.2	31.9
White	10.8	45.9	43.3

Source: 2000 National Opinion Research Center General Social Survey as cited in Young Men of Color in the Media: Images and Impacts, Robert M. Entman 2006, pg. 7.

Structural Racism and Racialized Outcomes

Knowledge or
Ideological
Context

Historically
Accumulated
White Privilege

National
Values

Contemporary
Culture

When people are seen as possessing “deviant” or “deficient” cultural practices:

- It is common sense to deny public resources, judge them differently.
- Racial disparities attributed to *individual* not *structural* impediment to progress.
- Can lead to internalized feelings of superiority or inferiority



Thank You

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