Silencing Race: Disentangling Blackness, Colonialism, and National Identities in Puerto Rico


In their quest for greater political participation within shifting imperial fields—from Spanish (1850s–1898) to US rule (1898–)—Puerto Ricans struggled to shape and contain conversations about race. In so doing, they crafted, negotiated, and imposed on others multiple forms of silences while reproducing the idea of a unified, racially mixed, harmonious nation. Hence, both upper and working classes participated, although with different agendas, in the construction of a wide array of silences that together have prevented serious debate about racialized domination. This book explores the ongoing, constant racialization of Puerto Rican workers to explore the 'class-making' of race.

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