

Comprehension check list for Bonilla-Silva (1997)
"Rethinking Racism: Toward a Structural Interpretation". ASR

-Session 4: Mind the Gap—

1. What is BS's critique of the "ideational" approach to racism that, according to him, predominates in the social sciences?
2. What is BS' critique to racial-formation approaches? Does he draw on these approaches in his "model"?
3. What is a "racialized social system" according to BS?
4. What is the role of racism (and how does he define it) in this system?
5. What are "races" and where do "racial interests" come from?
6. What is the racial "structure" and what is the connection between the racial structure and racism, according to BS?
7. Discuss BS's claim that "racial interests take precedence over class interests" in the US
8. What is BS's critique to statistical analyses of racial inequality?
 - If models must control for class, what should be the relevant dependent variable?
9. What is "racial contestation"?
10. What are the main advantages of the racialized social system approach, according to BS?

Comprehension check list for Loveman (1999) “/s “Race” Essential?”. ASR

-Session 4: Mind the Gap—

1. Discuss Loveman’s first critique to BS that his approach confounds categories with groups
2. Discuss Loveman’s second critique to BS that his approach reifies or objectifies “race”
 - Discuss: *“Once it is recognized that the boundaries between “races”, and hence the existence of “races”, cannot be deduced from the existence or imposition of “racial” categories...the attribution of objective racial interest become all but meaningless”* Loveman (199:894)
3. Discuss Loveman’s third critique to BS that his approach maintains an unwarranted analytical distinction between “race” and “ethnicity”
 - Discuss Loveman’s critique of North American analytical bias in the study of “race” as well as her critique to tautological theorization
4. Can racialization processes occur without clear phenotypic distinctions, according to Loveman?
5. Why does Loveman propose to abandon “race” as an analytical concept?
 - Discuss the distinction between “category of practice” and “category of analysis”
6. Discuss Loveman’s proposed comparative sociology of group-making
 - How does this framework relates to Wimmer’s approach to race and ethnicity (discussed in session 3)?
 - What is social closure and what is its role in Loveman’s framework?
 - Is social closure different from boundary-making?

Comprehension check list for Bonilla-Silva (1999) “The Essential Social Fact of Race”. ASR -Session 4: Mind the Gap—

1. Discuss BS' reaction to Loveman's first critique.
 - Do you think Loveman's is deflating the significance of race?
 - What role plays the Brazilian case in this debate?
 - Is BS doing an accurate (and fair) description of Loveman's arguments? If not, explain why.
- 2.
3. Discuss BS' reaction to Loveman's second critique
4. Discuss BS' reaction to Loveman's third critique
 - Why according to BS, should race be treated separately from ethnicity –i.e. what differentiates race and ethnicity, according to him?
 - Do you think BS' description of Colonization of the Americas as the origin of “racilization” process is correct?
 - Does racialization always invoke the language of phenotype (BS:1999:903)?
 - Does ethnic differentiation always invoke the language of place, are ethnic distinctions about where we are from, as BS claims (1999:903)?
 - DO you agree that racial distinctions are intrinsically about power and lead “inevitably” to divergent interests? (BS:199:903)
 - What role plays the case of former Yugoslavia in BS's argument about the analytical relevance of race?
 - Discuss: “(T)he conceptual elimination of race and the utilization of ethnicity as the mantra for interpreting ethnic, racial, and national phenomena is usually associated with the unwillingness of members of the dominant race “to accept responsibility for the problem of racism” (Essed 1991:28)” BS 1999:904).

- Now change “race” by “class”, “ethnicity” by “income” and “ethnic, racial, and national phenomena” and “racism” by “inequality” and you would have ...

“(T)he conceptual elimination of class and the utilization of income as the mantra for interpreting economic inequality is usually associated with the unwillingness of members of the dominant class “to accept responsibility for the problem of inequality”.

Do you think such an argument would have been accepted as valid in ASR?

5. Discuss BS’s argument about “New racism” and how this argument is used by the author to attack Loveman’s group-making approach