

Is It The Era of Color Blind Racism?

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10/13/2021

Racism's America has manifested itself in various forms including genocide, slavery, segregation, Native American reservation and boarding schools, racist immigration and naturalisation laws. Over time, these racial discriminations were banned by the mid of last century and has come to a perception that these views are socially and morally incorrect and unacceptable. According to sociologist Eduardo Bonilla-Silva, new racism has been created in America since post civil rights took place in the form of color blind.

Color blind is racial ideology that rationalizes racial inequality using non racial language. It uses liberal ideas such as freedom of choice to explain racial inequality while ignoring the fact that it creates segregation. The general social survey from 1972-2010 is a tool that allows us to look closer to the problems that American people still have with racial thoughts.

Figures 1 and 2 illustrate five variables that indicate changes in racial attitudes and behavior from 1972 to 2010. For example, when people were asked about whether the government should aid the black people or not, only 25% came to agree with the statement in 1972 and it has declined over the time and reached about 18% in 2010. While more than 50% felt otherwise from 1972 to 2010. Furthermore, when asked whether the government should improve the standard of living, more than 37% gave a response in its favor in 1972 and it declined to 26% in 2010. On the contrary, figure2 illustrates that 24% were opposed to it in 1972 and remained almost the same in 2010. Despite the fact that the percentage of non-supporters has remained stable throughout the years, the number of supporters has fallen substantially. Therefore, even though most individuals believe they are not racist, the evidence shows that the majority of them do not want to see black people aided and do not believe the government should enhance their living standards.

Furthermore, even though the majority of people disagreed with the statement that black people are born with a lower ability to learn in order to improve their lives, the percentage of people who agreed with the statement has increased from 0% to 10% from 1972 to 1992 and then decreased over time from 10% to 8%. In addition to that, the majority of people disagree with the assertion that black people have a worse job, income, and housing situation as a result of discrimination, and the disagreement rate was 100% in 1972 but decreased notably to 80% by 2010. Therefore, we can see that even though it is said that there is no racism in today's society, racism still exists even if it's just a few percent of people.

Interracial marriage became legal in 1967 despite the fact that not many people supported it at the time. Over time, however, more individuals began to agree with the concept that there should be no laws

against it, as seen by the GSS data. Figure 1 shows that from 1972 to 2010 the percentage of people that agree to this law against interracial marriage dropped down from 30% to almost 1%, demonstrating that people prefer to mix races and that racism is almost non-existent.

People tend to believe that racism should not exist in terms of living conditions for black people, but they also do not want the government to aid and assist black people in order to improve their standard of living, according to the data. So it seems color blind racism exists in America. This explains the theory of Eduardo Bonilla Silva where she explained how post racial America falls into a new trap of color blind racism where people maintain and justify racial things with their thoughts and behaviour.

Lastly, racism in any form is bad for progressive society. Over time people feel they are morally improved and try to keep the racism away from their ideology. But deep in mind they couldn't get rid of it fully; rather they are in an illusion of normalising the racism and carrying the thoughts of racism. Apparently the survey data somewhat agrees with the ideas of Eduardo Bonilla Silva.

Figure1: All agree & yes opinions

black 5 = SA to A which means they support that govt. Should aid black

marriage 1 = respondents support there should be laws against marriages between (negro/ black/ African- American) and whites

poor 5 = SA to A which means they support that govt. Should improve standard of living

raceability 1 = the respondents agrees On the average, (negroes/blacks/ african-american) have worse job, income and housing than white people due to discrimination Because most (Negroes/Blacks/African-Americans) have less in-born ability to learn

racediff 1 = the respondents agrees On the average, (negroes/blacks/ african-american) have worse job, income and housing than white people due to discrimination , **mainly due to discrimination**

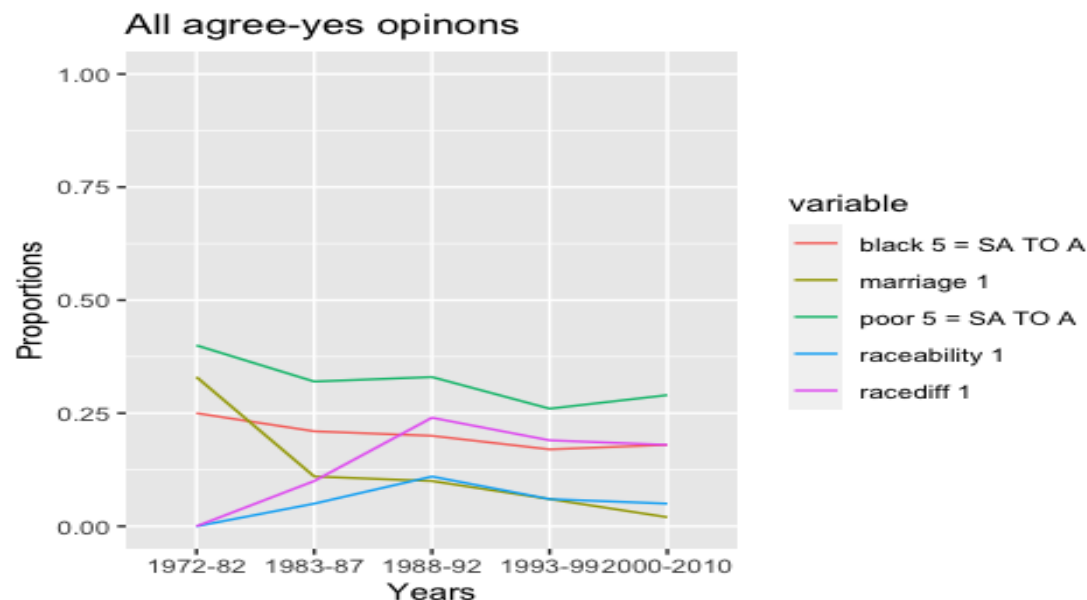


Figure2: All disagree & no opinions

