



Straddling White and Black Worlds: How Interpersonal Interactions with Young Black People Forever Altered a White Man's Understanding of Race

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COLLECTION
Black Studies

EDITION
1st edition

MARKET
College/higher education
and Professional and
scholarly

This course reading...

- Charts the development of a white man's racial consciousness, from childhood onwards, as informed by relationships with different Black people.
- Illustrates how it is possible to de-centre whiteness in order to make room for a vicarious understanding of Blackness, resulting in a commitment to racial justice.
- Is ideal reading for students of Black Studies; African-American Studies; Sociology; Cultural Anthropology; Multicultural Studies; American Studies; and related courses.

How does a white man understand what it's like to be Black? How can he start to form a sense of racial consciousness, and take action for racial justice?

For **Dr Paul Reck PhD**, an Assistant Professor of Sociology at Ramapo College, this journey was sparked and informed by the interactions and relationships he has, and has had, with his Black godchildren and Black students he has taught. To use one's privilege for the benefit of those less privileged means first understanding that privilege and the needs of those you are trying to help: this honest and reflective autoethnography recounts Reck's developing sense of racial consciousness from his childhood through to his work as a university professor.

Ideal reading for students of Black Studies or African-American Studies and similar courses, this book will be of interest to anyone who is beginning to explore how to de-centre their own whiteness in their understanding of race.

Paul Reck PhD is an Assistant Professor of Sociology at Ramapo College. His research interests focus on the social construction of race, class, and gender, and how such constructions contribute to structural inequality, particularly within the context of the criminal justice system. During his tenure at Ramapo College, Dr Reck has created and supervised the Diversity Action Student Group, a student organization dedicated to promoting diversity and social justice on campus, and has spearheaded the establishment of a chapter of the NAACP.

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Available as part of the *Intersections*: Identity and Place collection.