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Matthew W. Hughey is Assistant Professor of Sociology and affiliate member of African American Studies and Gender Studies at Mississippi State University. He received his PhD from the University of Virginia (2009) where he served as a research fellow with the Carter G. Woodson Institute for African American and African Studies and worked as an Instructor for the Departments of Sociology, Media Studies, and African American Studies. He specializes in the study of racial identity formation, racialized organizations, and the production, distribution, and reception of mass media representations of race. He is the author of the forthcoming White Bound: White Nationalists, White Antiracists, and the Shared Meanings of Race (Stanford University Press) and is co-editor of The Obamas and a (Post) Racial America? (Oxford University Press, 2011), Black Greek-Letter Organizations, 2.0: New Directions in the Study of African American Fraternities and Sororities (University Press of Mississippi, 2011) and 12 Angry Men: True Stories of Being a Black Man in America Today (The New Press, 2010). His recent research appeared in journals such as Ethnic and Racial Studies, the Journal of Contemporary Ethnography, Social Problems, Symbolic Interaction, and The Sociological Quarterly. He is currently at work on a book about the content, criticism, and consumption of "White savior films."

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Michèle Lamont is the Robert I. Goldman Professor of European Studies and Professor of Sociology and African and African American Studies at Harvard University. She is also a Fellow of the Canadian Institute for Advanced Research, where she co-directs the program Successful Societies. Her recent publications include Social Knowledge in the Making (coedited with Charles Camic and Neil Gross, 2011), Reconsidering Culture and Poverty (coedited with David Harding and Mario Small, Annals of the American Academy of Social and Political Science, 2010), How Professors Think: Inside the World of Academic Judgment (2009), and Successful Societies: How Institutions and Culture Affect Health (coedited with Peter A. Hall, 2009).

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William Julius Wilson is Geyser University Professor at Harvard University. He is a recipient of the 1998 National Medal of Science, and was awarded the Talcott Parsons Prize in the Social Sciences by the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 2003. Past President of the American Sociological Association, Wilson has received forty-two honorary degrees, including honorary doctorates from Princeton, Columbia, University of Pennsylvania, Northwestern, Johns Hopkins, Dartmouth, New York University, and the University of Amsterdam in the Netherlands. A MacArthur Prize Fellow from 1987 to 1992, Wilson has been elected to the National Academy of Sciences, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the American Philosophical Society, the National Academy of Education, the Institute of Medicine, and the British Academy.