

Yale University | Spring 2013

# Workshop in Urban Ethnography

*A special session of Endeavors, Co-Sponsored by the Department of African American Studies*

## ***The Invisible Weight of Whiteness: The Racial Grammar of Everyday Life in America***



**Eduardo Bonilla-Silva**  
***Chair, Professor of Sociology***  
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Eduardo Bonilla-Silva is Professor and Chair of the Sociology Department at Duke University. He gained visibility in the social sciences with his 1997 *American Sociological Review* article “Rethinking Racism: Toward a Structural Interpretation.” His publications include *White Out: The Continuing Significance of Racism* (with Ashley Doane, 2003), *White Logic, White Methods: Racism and Methodology* (with Tukufu Zuberi, 2008), and *State of White Supremacy: Racism, Governance, and the United States* (with Moon-Kie Jung and João Costa Vargas, 2011). His honors include the Cox-Johnson-Frazier Award.

### ***The Invisible Weight of Whiteness: Racial Grammar of Everyday Life in America***

Racial domination, like all forms of domination, works best when it becomes hegemonic, accomplishing its goal without fanfare. In this presentation, based on the *Ethnic and Racial Studies Annual Lecture* I delivered in London in 2011, I argue that a kind of grammar structures cognition, vision, and feelings on racial matters. This grammar normalizes the standards of white supremacy as the standards for all sort of social events and transactions. Thus, one can talk about HBCUs (historically black colleges and universities) but not HWCUs (historically white colleges and universities), or refer to black movies and TV shows but not label such media white. I use a variety of data (abduction of children, school shootings, etc.) to illustrate how this grammar works and highlight what it helps to accomplish. I conclude that it is as important as visible practices of white supremacy and that we must fight its poisonous effects, even if we cannot see how it works clearly.

***Lunch Served \* \* \* All Welcome***

**Monday, February 4, 11:30a-1:20p**  
210 Prospect Street, Room 203, New Haven

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