

# Race & Ethnicity

Intro to  
Latinx Studies

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## How is Race defined?

We can understand race “not as a scientific fact but a social, cultural and ideological “construction” —a set of ideas—through which societies have sought to organize, structure, and understand themselves.” ~George Reid Andrews, *Afro Latin America*

## Latin America

Black/Afro-descended majority

*Blaquemiento* - “whiten the race” through marriage/mating

Fluid racial boundaries

## United States

Black/white binary

Hypo-decent (any African ancestry = Black)

White majority

Rigid boundaries



# Ethnicity is shared...



**Cultural Ties**

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**Language and  
Communication**

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**Traditions and  
histories**

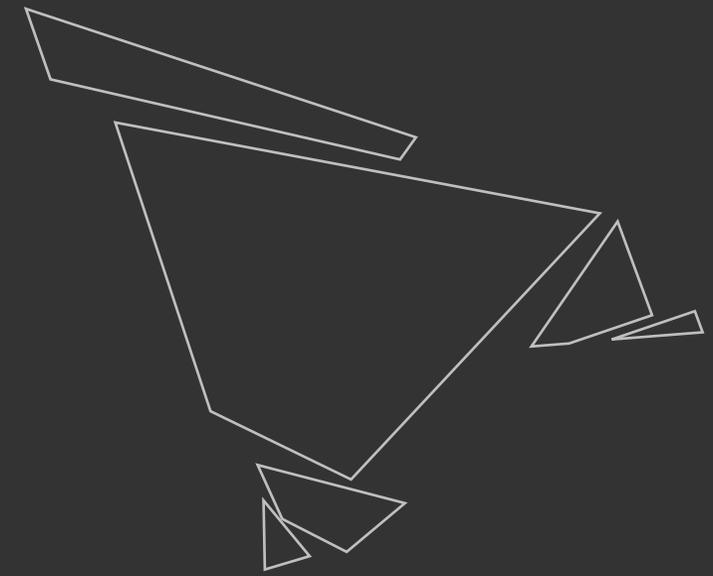


# Ethnorace

~Linda Martin Alcoff,  
“Latinos beyond the Binary”

“The concept of **ethnorace**, then, might be defined as pertaining to groups who have both ethnic and racialized characteristics, who are a historical people with customs and conventions developed out of collective agency, but who are also identified and identifiable by bodily morphology that allows for both group affinity as well as group exclusion and denigration.”

“A group of Black women at the National Women’s Conference in 1977 response to the inclusion of other ethnic women who were not Black: **“women of color”** was created. Okay? And they didn’t see it as a biological designation—you’re born Asian, you’re born Black, you’re born African American, whatever—but it is a **solidarity definition**, a commitment to work in collaboration with other oppressed women of color who have been ‘minoritized’.”

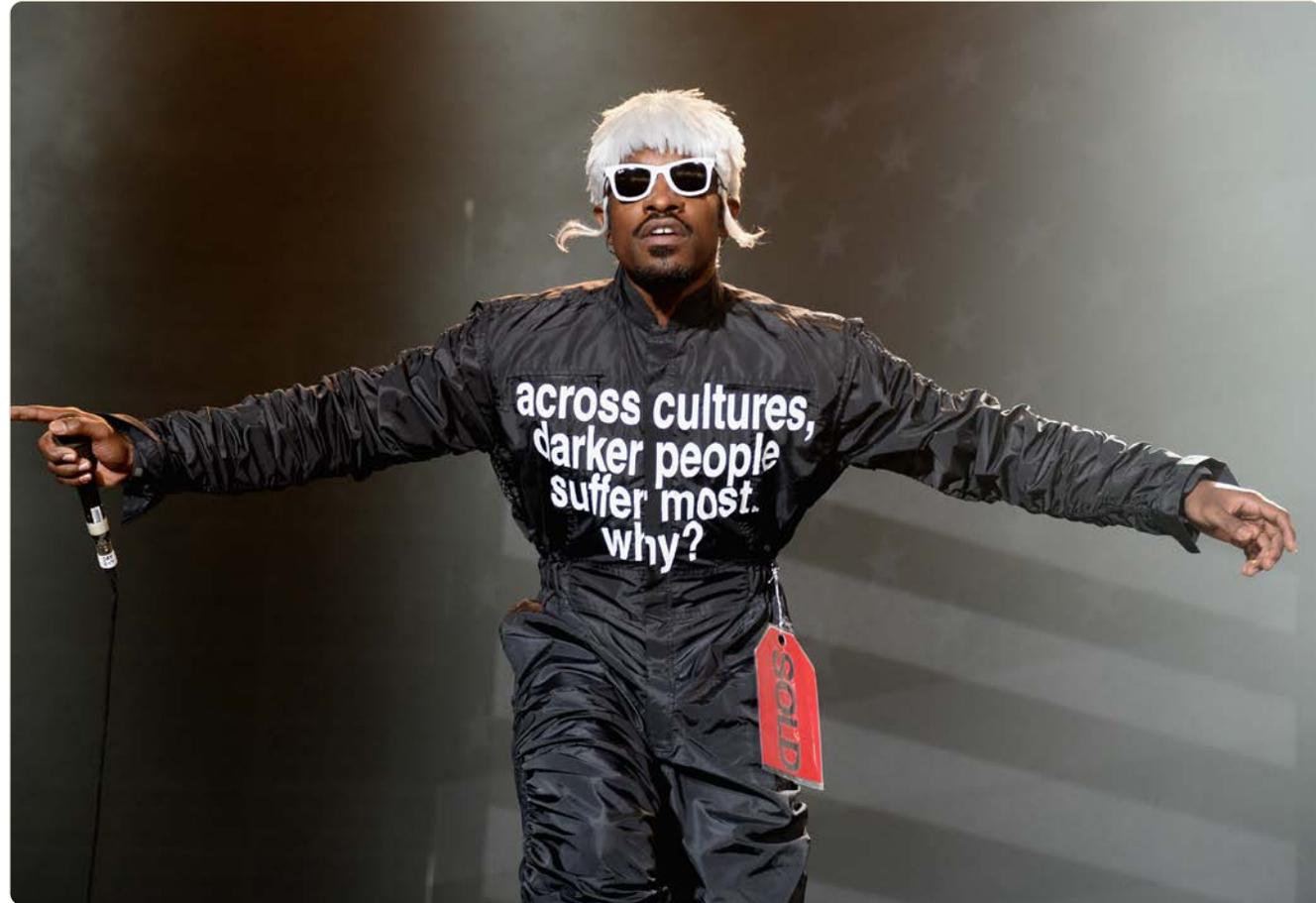


## People of Color

~Loretta Ross, cofounder and national coordinator of SisterSong - Women of Color Reproductive Justice Collective

# A note on Colorism

“Today, the term is widely used to refer to the **prejudices** and **discriminatory practices** surrounding skin color differences that occur not only among African Americans, but also among other populations of color such as Latinos and Asians, both in this country and around the world.”



~Kathy Russell, Midge Wilson, Ph.D. and Ronald Hall *The Color Complex*

# Afro-Latinx

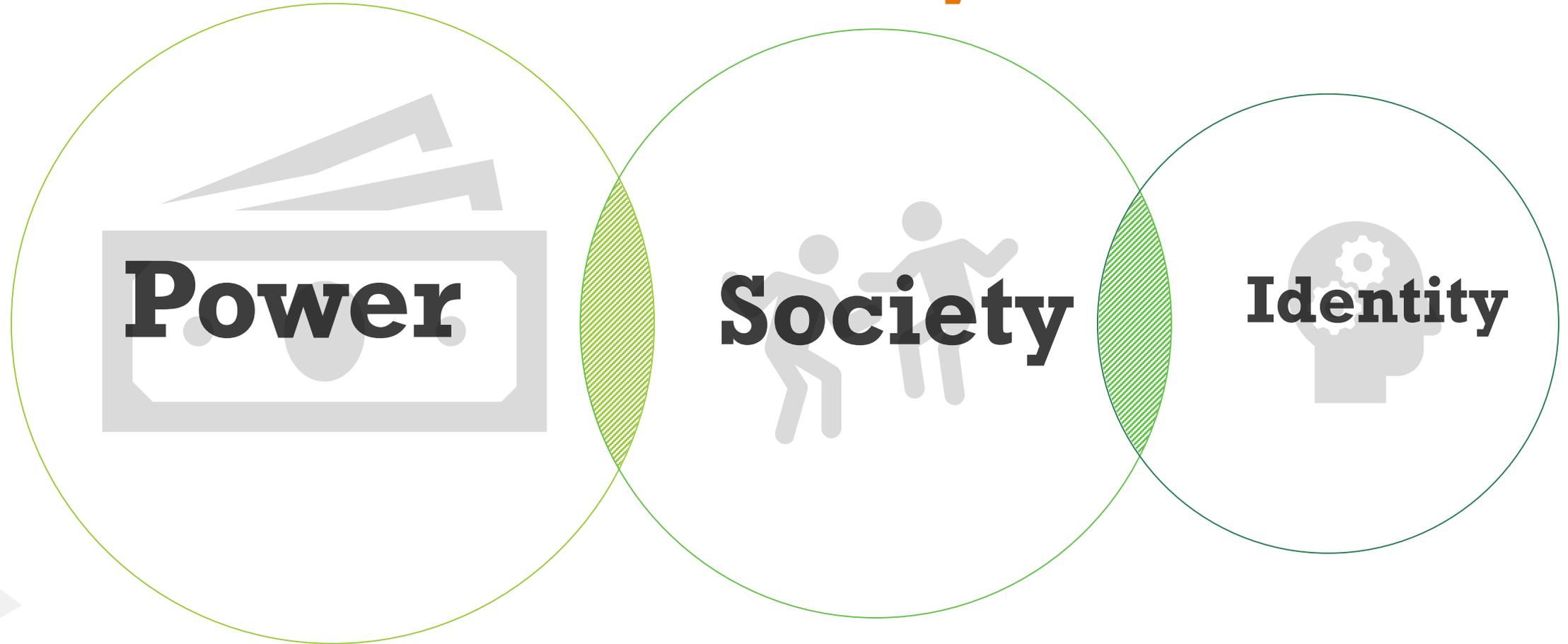


“The term Afro-Latin@ thus was born and reared in this transnational crucible struggle and self-affirmation.”

“Afro-Latin@ has surfaced as a way to signal racial, cultural, and socioeconomic contradictions within the overly vague idea of Latin@.”

~Miriam Jiménez Román and Juan Flores  
*Afro-Latin@ Reader*

# Difference Between Race & Ethnicity



# Down These Mean Streets



**Discuss:** How does Piri's Puerto Rican self-identity and racialization as Black clash and change?