



Promise and Dilemma Perspectives on Racial Diversity and Higher Education /

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Étude de cas (Descripteur de forme)

Case studies

Monografía

Issues of diversity and affirmative action have turned elite higher education in the United States into contested terrain. Rights revolutions in the country have raised hopes that have proved difficult to fulfill. Most particularly, expectations about access and opportunity--redressing the unfairness of the past--have collided with widely held beliefs: that educational institutions should treat each person fairly as an individual and should promote high academic standards. *Promise and Dilemma* gathers the reflections of a group of leading educators on whether and how objectives of diversity, equity, and excellence can be simultaneously pursued. Empirical in orientation, these essays focus on constructive proposals and on the role of social and political consensus. Furthermore, they contrast what we believe we know with what empirical data and institutional experience can teach us. Eugene Lowe's substantive introduction reviews the history of the practice of affirmative action in colleges and universities. The other essays are by L. Scott Miller of The College Board; Mamphela Ramphele, vice chancellor of the University of Cape Town; Neil J. Smelser of the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences, Stanford; and Claude M. Steele of Stanford University. Also included are commentaries by Randall Kennedy, Harvard Law School; Richard J. Light, John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University; Chang-Lin Tien, the University of California, Berkeley; and Philip Uri Treisman, the University of Texas

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and Nationality Act (1965) Integration shock Johnson, Andrew Jones, James (SO(B Kennedy, Randall Kerner Commission Lepper, M. R. Lewis, Charles Lukas, Anthony McCamley-Jenkins, Laura Meyerhoff Scholars Program Minow, Martha Myrdal, Gunnar Neave, Guy Objective correlatives Ogbu, John Overprediction phenomenon Patrick, Deval Peltason, Jack Pluralism Politics of recognition Quinn, Diane Racial vulnerability Reed, John Rudenstine, Neil School Development Program Schrag, Peter Smelser, Neil Socioeconomic status (SES) Steele, Claude M. Taylor, Charles Tien, Chang-Lin Underperformance phenomenon

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Contenido: Frontmatter -- CONTENTS -- FOREWORD -- ACKNOWLEDGMENTS -- CONTRIBUTORS -- PART I -- One PROMISE AND DILEMMA INCORPORATING RACIAL DIVERSITY IN SELECTIVE HIGHER EDUCATION -- PART II -- Two PROMOTING HIGH ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT AMONG NON-ASIAN MINORITIES -- Three A THREAT IN THE AIR HOW STEREOTYPES SHAPE INTELLECTUAL IDENTITY AND PERFORMANCE -- Four A PRACTITIONER'S VIEW FROM TEXAS COMMENTS ON THE ESSAYS BY L. SCOTT MILLER AND CLAUDE M. STEELE -- Five ASSESSMENT AND STUDENT DIVERSITY COMMENTS ON THE ESSAYS BY L. SCOTT MILLER AND CLAUDE M. STEELE -- PART III -- Six EQUITY AND EXCELLENCE - STRANGE BEDFELLOWS? A CASE STUDY OF SOUTH AFRICAN HIGHER EDUCATION -- Seven FACING THE DILEMMAS OF DIFFERENCE COMMENTS ON THE ESSAY BY MAMPHELA RAMPHELE -- Eight PROBLEMATICS OF AFFIRMATIVE ACTION A VIEW FROM CALIFORNIA -- Nine WHAT A UNIVERSITY CAN LEARN AND TEACH ABOUT CONFLICT AND DIFFERENCE COMMENTS ON THE ESSAY BY NEIL J. SMELSER -- EPILOGUE -- INDEX

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Materia: Université Segregation raciale Reussite scolaire Programme d'accès à l'égalité Minorité ethnique Enseignement supérieur Éducation Accès à l'éducation Discrimination dans l'enseignement supérieur- États-Unis- Cas, Études de. Universities and colleges- Sociological aspects Minorities- Education (Higher) Educational equalization Affirmative action programs Academic achievement Universités- États-Unis- Aspect sociologique- Études de cas Universités- Afrique du Sud- Aspect sociologique- Études de cas Démocratisation de l'enseignement- Afrique du Sud- Études de cas Succès scolaire- États-Unis- Études de cas Programmes d'action positive- États-Unis- Études de cas Démocratisation de l'enseignement- États-Unis- Études de cas Minorités- Enseignement supérieur- États-Unis- Études de cas Universities and colleges- United States- Sociological aspects- Case studies Universities and colleges- South Africa- Sociological aspects- Case studies Educational equalization- South Africa- Case studies Academic achievement- United States- Case studies Affirmative action programs- United States- Case studies Educational equalization- United States- Case studies Minorities- Education (Higher)- United States- Case studies

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