

The Possessive Investment in Whiteness: Racialized Social Democracy and the “White” Problem
in American Studies

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To be honest, most of what is discussed and stated in this reading, I've already known and experienced as a woman of color. As someone building a network, career, and recognition to be at the forefront of the magnitude of racism and discrimination in place where privileged individuals pray on your downfall. I've witnessed this firsthand and it is more an expectation rather than an astonishment at this point. Overtime, you become numb to the persistent differences you face as a minority, but rather do all you can to be the true image of your community. Not the one powered by negative portrayals fed to society consistently through media and history. The promotion of "Whiteness," and its prioritization represents the hierarchical society we reside in. As Lipitz states, "of realities created by slavery and segregation, by immigration restriction and Indian policy, by conquest and colonialism." I am a product of immigration, immigration at its darkest form. The one fleeing individuals do whatever it takes to cross the hottest of barrens all with a glimpse of the unforeseen American Dream. Growing up and residing in a system where systemic oppression dominates is tiring to say the least. I enjoy this reading and others we have read in class, but having a class where you are free to debate an experience you live rather than stick to the imagery of the page you read. My parents resided in this country for 30+ years now, and in the past 10 years experienced what owning a home was. Lipitz discusses "minority applicants had a 60 percent greater chance of being denied home loans than white applicants with the same credit-worthiness." The color-aware criteria you have to meet to be considered and even offered a loan is economic racism itself. As the pillars and foundation of the American economy through our trade and new slave labor, White privileged individuals thrive off our exertion. Whether in the workforce, education, government, entertainment, and so much more, people of color work twice as hard to land a role that would be handed to a white person. Someone asked me if I was proud to be Latina? It was sad to hesitate answering this question because of course I'm proud to be Latina, but what about everything that entails living as a Latina? The machismo in our own culture, the constant comparison, working 2x than a white woman, or walking as a portrayed stereotype. Regardless of the oppressive system I face, it will not break nor crack me, it will only empower me so the next generation of Latinas have people who look like them in the industries they please. That's what it means to be Latina: strong, dedicated, and resourceful.