Call for Papers on the Racism of Omission for *Social Problems*

This call for papers inverts the logic of studying racism as solely an intentional (or explicit) act of exclusion by examining racism as an act of omission or choosing *not* to act or acting in a racially habituated fashion without thought or explicit intent. Racism, in both popular and academic conceptualizations, is often characterized as an act of commission. Despite long-standing claims about its "structural," or "systemic" causes and consequences, mainstream scholarship measures racism as the acts of individuals (Pager 2007), organizations (Ray 2019), and states (Bracey 2015) that proactively disadvantage marginalized groups. Scholarship typically emphasizes the purposeful nature of racism, via actively or explicitly excluding marginalized groups from resources or opportunities. Discrimination is conceptualized as a discreet action that either excludes people of color from access to housing (Kover-Glenn 2018), work (Wingfield 2020), schooling or other resources, or as the differential treatment people of color experience once they gain admittance to white dominated spaces (for a critique, see Bonilla-Silva 2021). Some scholarship also considers racism as the active hoarding of opportunity by whites, such as research on the impact of interventions in the housing market to increase the value of white-owned property and devalue black-owned property through eminent domain, urban renewal projects, and highway construction throughout the United States.

Despite the focus on intentional racism, above, scholars have in fact long maintained that institutionalized and systemic racism and discrimination is most effective when it is built into social processes that remove the need for overt acts of exclusion. It follows that refusing to intervene in an ongoing process of exclusion reproduces racial inequality. We therefore define racism of omission as the non-recognition of a racial or ethnic group's rights, resources, or needs. Racism by omission focuses on how racism is sustained via ignorance, denial, or invisibility. Exclusion, theoretically, is based on recognition of the racial other as threatening, lesser, criminal, or otherwise in need of containment, control, or subjugation. Omission can be the lack of a recognition of the racial other as relevant. We also consider inaction in the face of exclusion to potentially function as a form of non-recognition of racism. For example, when George Romney proposed denying grants to localities that promoted segregation, Nixon stopped Romney and inertia perpetuated residential segregation, stifling any federal effort to promote integration (Rothstein 2017).

We encourage papers that consider Racism of Omission via:

1. Omissions of people from categories of treatment (e.g., the omission of workers in occupations where people of color are overrepresented from the category of "essential" when determining COVID vaccine prioritization),
2. Omissions of data (the lack of data on racialized exposure to police violence as a means of enabling racially unjust policing; or election referendum on whether or not to collect data on race; omission of census data on certain groups),
3. Omissions of history (e.g., the lack of historical preservation for Black historical spaces, the lack of recognition of Indigenous people's geographies, or non-recognition of histories of white racist violence),

4. Omissions of white threats and violence (for example, the lack of a militarized police presence in response to the January 6th insurrection even after armed invasions of state legislature and the plot to kidnap Michigan's Governor Whitmer months earlier) ,
5. Omissions of communities (the exclusion of Black communities from incorporation, e.g. Purifoy and Seamster 2020),
6. Omission of racial groups from the category of "American" either legally (immigration law) or psychologically,
7. Omission of culture (non-recognition of non-white art forms),
8. Omission of race as a relational matter (e.g., few analysts examine how racism benefits Whites)
9. Other forms of racialized omission that contribute to inequality not listed here.

Scope
We welcome papers that engage theoretically and/or empirically with the racism of omission. We seek submissions with a wide range of substantive areas and encourage research that links omission as racism within an intersectional frame, by considering absences linked to gender, sex, sexuality, social class, or nationality for example. We welcome research using diverse methods and encourage methodological innovation as part of a study of omission when most research methods focus on acts of commission. Finally, though this call for papers draws largely on examples of racism and racism of omission in the contemporary U.S., we welcome and encourage work that considers racism of omission in other geographic contexts and time periods.

Theoretically, racism as omission should complement several existing frameworks for understanding racism in contemporary society. We are especially interested in work that uses this call to cast new light on theoretical arguments or that offer new theories to incorporate omission into discussions of structural racism.

Papers are limited to a maximum of 35 pages including references. Extra material including, tables, figures, photos, appendices, etc., should be kept to a minimum. All manuscripts should be typed in Times New Roman, 12-point font and double-spaced (including indented quotes and references). Leave one-inch margins. Avoid the generic use of male nouns or pronouns. All manuscripts are subject to the normal anonymous peer-review process. The deadline for submitting papers is Friday May 20, 2022. Please submit papers through the online submission portal https://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/socpro and choose "Racism of Omission" at "step 6" of the submission process.

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