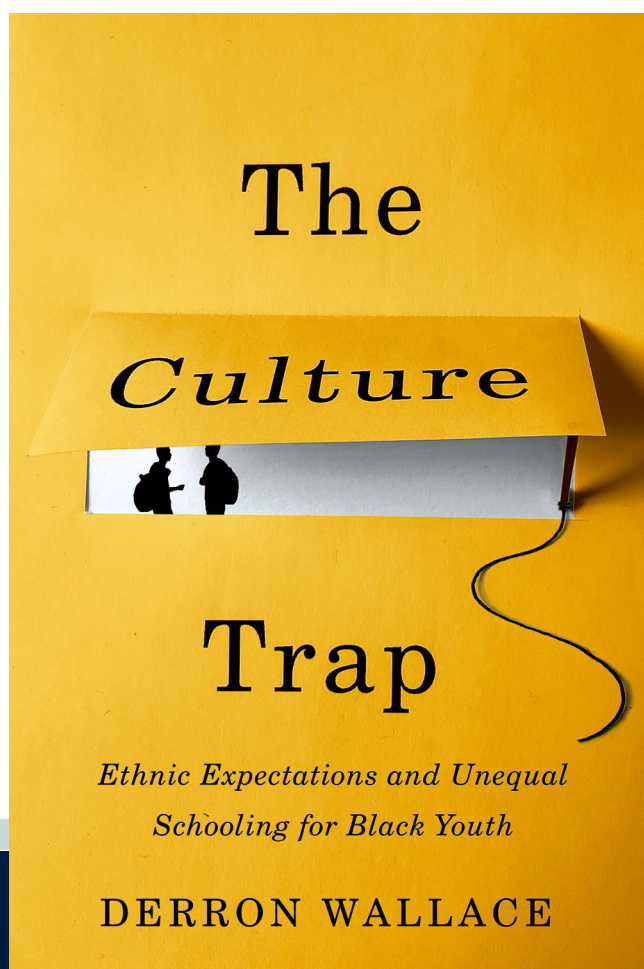


The Culture Trap

Ethnic Expectations and Unequal
Schooling for Black Youth



In *The Culture Trap*, Derron Wallace argues that the overreliance on culture to explain Black students' achievement and behavior in schools is a trap that conceals the complex factors that shape how Black students experience schooling. Drawing on rich observations, interviews, and archives in London and New York City schools, Wallace suggests that the use of culture to justify Black Caribbean students' achievement obscures the very real ways that school structures, institutional processes, and colonial conditions influence the racial, gender and class inequalities minority youth experience in schools. Wallace reveals how culture is at times used as an alibi for racism in schools, and points out what educators, parents, and students can do to change the beliefs and practices that reinforce racism.

Features

- Intervenes in popular debates on anti-racism in schools, showing how culture has been used as an alibi for racism
- Offers original data from two of the largest state/public schools in London and New York City
- Highlights how Black Caribbean youth draw on beliefs of distinctiveness, commitments to deference, and expressions of defiance to challenge their marginalization and pursue success in schools

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