

(Library ebook) Land of the Cosmic Race: Race Mixture, Racism, and Blackness in Mexico

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Christina A. Sue

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Christina A. Sue : Land of the Cosmic Race: Race Mixture, Racism, and Blackness in Mexico before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Land of the Cosmic Race: Race Mixture, Racism, and Blackness in Mexico:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Fantastic Book!!By KorbenThis book is well written and makes for a very interesting read. You can tell she cared about the people she interviewed, and they trusted her with delicate

personal information.

Land of the Cosmic Race is a richly-detailed ethnographic account of the powerful role that race and color play in organizing the lives and thoughts of ordinary Mexicans. It presents a previously untold story of how individuals in contemporary urban Mexico construct their identities, attitudes, and practices in the context of a dominant national belief system. The book centers around Mexicans' engagement with three racialized pillars of Mexican national ideology - the promotion of race mixture, the assertion of an absence of racism in the country, and the marginalization of blackness in Mexico. The subjects of this book are mestizos - the mixed-race people of Mexico who are of Indigenous, African, and European ancestry and the intended consumers of this national ideology. *Land of the Cosmic Race* illustrates how Mexican mestizos navigate the sea of contradictions that arise when their everyday lived experiences conflict with the national stance and how they manage these paradoxes in a way that upholds, protects, and reproduces the national ideology. Drawing on a year of participant observation, over 110 interviews, and focus-groups from Veracruz, Mexico, Christina A. Sue offers rich insight into the relationship between race-based national ideology and the attitudes and behaviors of mixed-race Mexicans. Most importantly, she theorizes as to why elite-based ideology not only survives but actually thrives within the popular understandings and discourse of those over whom it is designed to govern.

"This is an outstanding ethnography of race in Mexico. Christina Sue understands the beauty and depth of everyday Mexican identity and cultural life. She adds to that a profound grasp of the country's unique racial history and social structure. The result is a definitive study that reinterprets mestizaje, that recognizes the blackness that has been hidden for so long, and that reveals the poetic and emotional soul of Mexican society today. Very well-written and accessible, *Land of the Cosmic Race* is both a triumph of scholarship and an indispensable text for course use. Highly recommended!"--Howard Winant, University of California, Santa Barbara

"In Mexico, the official ideology of mestizaje has provided a master narrative in which the mixture of Indians and Spaniards functioned as a powerful antidote to racism. In her innovative study of race and skin color, Christina Sue combines ethnography and discourse analysis to explore how people of different classes negotiate the contradictions between the mestizaje ideology and their everyday experiences. While avoiding the use of the term race, most of her informants express a 'non-racist common sense,' accepting the social value of light skin but minimizing its significance as a factor of negative discrimination. Sue dexterously argues that such common sense reflects the national ideal of unity and fairness, but also hinders the effective critique of crucial aspects of Mexico's social inequalities."-Guillermo de la Pea, Professor of Anthropology, CIESAS, Mexico

"The *Land of the Cosmic Race* exposes the popular underbelly of Mexico's racial ideology, which stresses racial mixture while denying racism and blackness. Based on the port city of Veracruz, where at least 200,000 Africans had disembarked as slaves, Christina Sue's ethnography vividly explores how ordinary Mexicans make sense of race, racism, color and nation. At the same time, this book reveals how personal experiences interact with powerful national ideologies. Anyone who believes that Mexico has little or no racism, should read this carefully-researched book."-Edward Telles, Princeton University

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"In *Land of the Cosmic Race*, Christina Sue offers an ambitious, data-rich ethnography set in the "blackest" area of Mexico: the port city of Veracruz. Sue presents very rich qualitative data, drawn from respondents across the spectra of color and class. The content of the interviews, in particular, is quite revealing, and the impression is that the author has attained a broad and deep cross section of perspectives." -Contemporary Sociology

"As a qualitative researcher I am particularly struck by both the breadth and depth of this data, as well as the way in which Sue presents the narratives. Her ability to move beyond surface-level conversations regarding race and color and the detail in which she presents her participants speaks to the methodological excellence of this work." -American Journal of Sociology

About the Author
Christina A. Sue is Assistant Professor of Sociology at the University of Colorado at Boulder.