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Racisms in a Multicultural Canada Paradoxes, Politics, and Resistance

Augie Fleras

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In acknowledging the possibility that as the world changes so too does racism, this book argues that racism is not disappearing, despite claims that we live in a post-racial and multicultural world. To the contrary, racisms persist by transforming into different forms whose intent or effects remain the same: to deny and disallow as well as to exclude and exploit.

Racisms in a Multicultural Canada is organized around the assumption that race is not simply a set of categories and that racism is not just a collection of individuals with bad attitudes. Rather, racism is as much a matter of interests as of attitudes, of property as of prejudice, of structural advantage as of personal failing, of whiteness as of the “other,” of discourse as of discrimination, and of unequal power relations as of bigotry. This multi-dimensionality of racism complicates the challenge of formulating anti-racism and anti-colonialist strategies capable of addressing it.

Employing a critical framework that puts politics and power at the centre of analysis, this book focuses on why racisms proliferate, how they work in contemporary societies, and how the way we think and talk about racism changes over time. Specifically, it examines the working of contemporary racisms in a multicultural Canada that claims to abide by principles of multiculturalism and a commitment to a post-racial society.

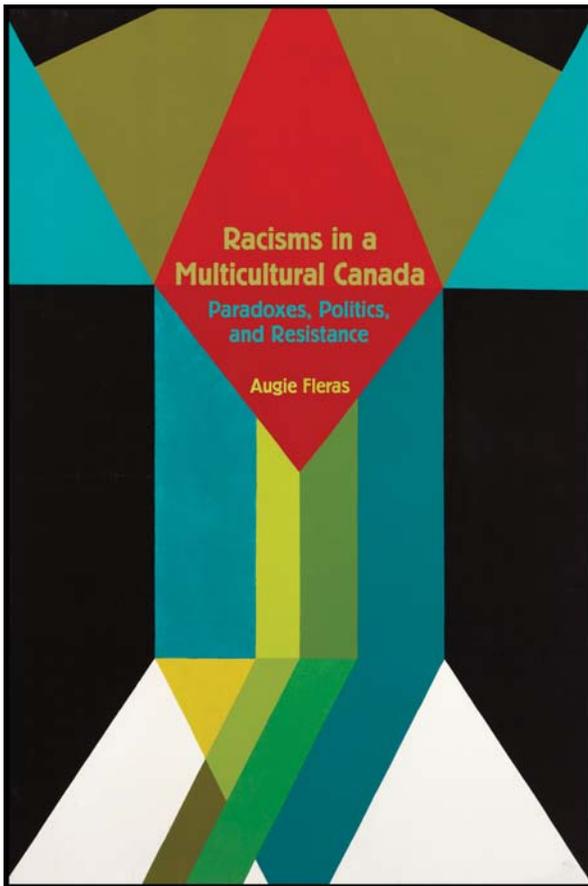
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CONTENTS

Preface

Section 1 Reappraising Racism

Chapter 1 The Politics of Racism: Evolving Realities, Shifting Discourses

Chapter 2 Reconceptualizing Racism: From Racism 1.0 to Racisms 2.0

Chapter 3 The Riddles of Race

Chapter 4 Deconstructing Racism: Prejudice, Discrimination, Power

Section 2 How Racisms Work: Sectors and Expressions

Chapter 5 Interpersonal Racisms

Chapter 6 Institutional Racisms

Chapter 7 Ideological Racisms

Chapter 8 Infrastructural Racisms

Chapter 9 Ivory Tower Racisms: An Intersectoral Analysis

Section 3 Explaining Racisms, Erasing Racisms

Chapter 10 Contesting Racisms: Causes, Continuities, Costs, and Consequences

Chapter 11 Rooting Out Racisms: Anti-racism Intervention

Chapter 12 Official Multiculturalism: Anti-racism or Another Racism?

Chapter 13 Summary and Conclusion: Inconvenient Truths/Comforting Fictions

References

Index



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