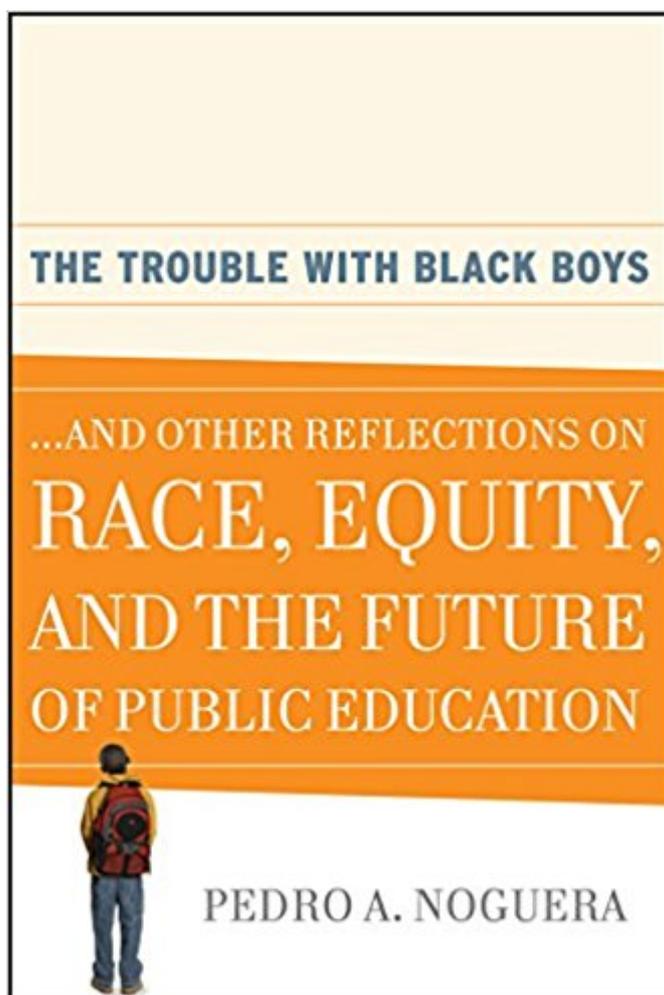


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The Trouble With Black Boys: ...And Other Reflections On Race, Equity, And The Future Of Public Education



Synopsis

For many years to come, race will continue to be a source of controversy and conflict in American society. For many of us it will continue to shape where we live, pray, go to school, and socialize. We cannot simply wish away the existence of race or racism, but we can take steps to lessen the ways in which the categories trap and confine us. Educators, who should be committed to helping young people realize their intellectual potential as they make their way toward adulthood, have a responsibility to help them find ways to expand identities related to race so that they can experience the fullest possibility of all that they may become. In this brutally honest "yet ultimately hopeful" book Pedro Noguera examines the many facets of race in schools and society and reveals what it will take to improve outcomes for all students. From achievement gaps to immigration, Noguera offers a rich and compelling picture of a complex issue that affects all of us.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Pedro Noguera has a lot to say in this book. In fact, Pedro Noguera has a lot to say in general, but I think I'd appreciate him more if he spent less time writing and talking and more time doing something to change the things he writes and talks about. I heard him speak in Pasadena, California, and when one person suggested he put himself forward to become the next superintendent of the eternally troubled Los Angeles Unified School District, he practically hid behind the podium. This suggests to me that he'd rather comment on the very real problem this book is about rather than get down in the dirt and try to fix it himself. For me, the problems with this

book start in the introduction. Noguera relates the story of a pickup basketball game in which two of the forty-something participants, both African-American, first start trash-talking, and then square off to fight over absolutely nothing of any consequence. The altercation ends when one of the fighters announces he is going to his car to get his gun. At that point Noguera decides, as would I have, that it is time to split, so he leaves - quickly. Noguera then creates a scenario out of whole cloth in which the only reason this act of complete stupidity makes sense is if one considers the buildup of stresses to which the two idiots on the court have been subjected over their entire lives simply because they are African-American. Let's leave out that they have both become successful adults and are responsible for their own behavior. Let's let them completely off the hook for being violently inclined. They obviously both suffer from PTSD just because they are black in the United States. Really? Seriously? Well, that explains Bill Cosby, too, now doesn't it?

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