

Analysing racial identity: narratives on perceived whites and their privilege

<Abstact>

This paper explores the questions of white identity defined as European-descended whites in the Caribbean, and examines how the nature of relationships the whites establish with “others” affect their way to self-identify as “white” in Barbados and Trinidad.

Face-to-face interviews were conducted in Barbados and Trinidad in 2017, 2018 and 2019 with adult participants who consider themselves white and who are considered white by other whites. Their narratives confirm they acknowledge their whiteness allows them to be socially privileged. The younger generations reject the idea of white superiority over black inferiority, and deny the rhetoric of having a “pure-white breed” background. They are open to the idea of having racially mixed offspring, although sometimes conditionally-if it is out-of-wedlock.