

### <Abstract>

This study explores the issues of white identity, defined as European-descended whites, in the former British colony, Barbados. Specifically, this research examines how European-descended whites perceive their differences from the non-white others, the nature of relationships they establish with others, and the matrix of social privilege they enjoy.

The whites referenced here are descendants of the families of European planters, colonial government officials, merchants, domestic servants, and field workers. Whites now occupy only 2.7% of the total population of the island, and they are synonyms with power and wealth. However, there is also an underprivileged white population, called “poor whites”, and they are poor enough to depend on the government’s social welfare support.

In August 2017, life history interviews were conducted in Barbados with 17 adult participants who consider themselves white and who are considered white by other whites. This research focuses on European-descended whites whose families have resided in the Caribbean for more than three generations and excludes those whites who recently migrated to Barbados.

The participants were contacted, and the interviews were scheduled by my research assistant, an Afro-Barbadian woman. Their narratives completely rejected the very idea of white superiority and any associated social privilege. At the same time, some revealed a common sense of superiority over blackness, a justification for racial discrimination, a fear of being perceived as racists, and their attachment to their social privilege.