Redefining Race: Asian American Panethnicity and Shifting Ethnic Boundaries (Paperback)

By Dina G Okamoto

Russell Sage Foundation Publications, United States, 2014. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 229 x 152 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book. In 2012, the Pew Research Center issued a report that named Asian Americans as the highest-income, best-educated, and fastest-growing racial group in the United States. Despite this seemingly optimistic conclusion, over thirty Asian American advocacy groups challenged the findings. As many pointed out, the term Asian American itself is complicated. It currently denotes a wide range of ethnicities, national origins, and languages, and encompasses a number of significant economic and social disparities. In Redefining Race, sociologist Dina G. Okamoto traces the complex evolution of this racial designation to show how the use of Asian American as a panethnic label and identity has been a deliberate social achievement negotiated by members of this group themselves, rather than an organic and inevitable process. Drawing on original research and a series of interviews, Okamoto investigates how different Asian ethnic groups in the U.S. were able to create a collective identity in the wake of the Civil Rights movement in the 1960s. Okamoto argues that a variety of broad social forces created the conditions for this developing panethnic identity. Racial segregation, for example,...

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