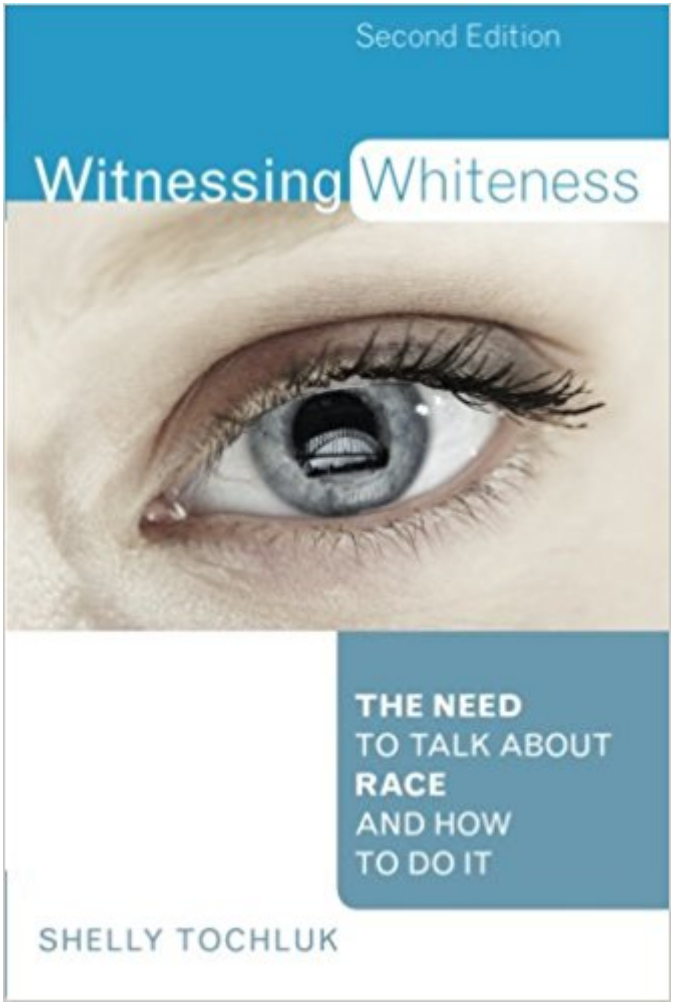
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Witnessing Whiteness: The Need To Talk About Race And How To Do It Second Edition



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Synopsis

Witnessing Whiteness invites readers to consider what it means to be white, describes and critiques strategies used to avoid race issues, and identifies the detrimental effect of avoiding race on cross-race collaborations. The author illustrates how racial discomfort leads white people toward poor relationships with people of color. Questioning the implications our history has for personal lives and social institutions, the book considers political, economic, socio-cultural, and legal histories that shaped the meanings associated with whiteness. Drawing on dialogue with well-known figures within education, race, and multicultural work, the book offers intimate, personal stories of cross-race friendships that address both how a deep understanding of whiteness supports cross-race collaboration and the long-term nature of the work of excising racism from the deep psyche. Concluding chapters offer practical information on building knowledge, skills, capacities, and communities that support anti-racism practices, a hopeful look at our collective future, and a discussion of how to create a culture of witnesses who support allies for social and racial justice. For book discussion groups and workshop plans, please visit www.witnessingwhiteness.com.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This book provides a compelling look at what it means to be white in America. It not only provides insight for white people, it can also be a valuable tool for people of color as together folks strive to work and live into accountable anti-racist relationships.With refreshing honesty and forthrightness, Shelly Tochluk's Witnessing Whiteness invites readersÃ¢â ¬â ¢especially those of us who are

whiteÃ¢â ¬â ¢to tread into the difficult terrain of confronting racism. Using rich storytelling and frank self-reflection, she skillfully engages readers in acknowledging, examining, and then taking on responsibility for racism and the work needed to dismantle it. This powerful and very readable book leads us through a clear analysis of why and how white people remain ignorant of and afraid to acknowledge racism, to laying out a practical framework for action. This book is an indispensable resource for white people who sense that racism is wrong, but don't know where to start. (Christine Sleeter, author of Un-Standardizing Curriculum)Witnessing Whiteness is a rare and precious gem in the national literature on race and privilege. Shelly Tochluk provides readers of this comprehensive volume with a well-crafted blend of personal and analytical material, which will prove helpful for anyone lucky enough to read it. Unraveling the knot of privilege and unawareness that so often binds white Americans and weakens the struggle for racial justice is a crucial task; and Witnessing Whiteness is a brilliantly honed tool for helping with that unraveling process. (Tim Wise, author of White Like Me and Between Barack and a Hard Place)Accessing the amazing experiences and wisdom of activists, thinkers, writers, and mythologists on the front lines of racial issues in this country, Shelly Tochluk brings to light the most important book about race in a generation. Is 'whiteness' bad in itself? When is it just part of the social, historical and cultural legacy of a people? And what is the prison/poison that this legacy bequeaths us? I highly recommend this book-it's helping raise race dialogue to a more healing and regenerative ground. (Luis J. Rodriguez, author of Always Running and Hearts & Hands)Witnessing Whiteness explains why not paying attention to race is a problem, and how avoiding race ruins well-meaning service efforts. The book includes personal stories about how readers can develop a healthy sense of racial identity and address racial conflict. The author invites readers to take action steps to stop racism and create more just communities. (Gettysburg Times 2011-08-17)

An educator, with a background in psychology, Shelly Tochluk spent ten years as a researcher, counselor, and teacher in California's public schools. Tochluk now trains educators to work with the diverse Los Angeles school population as an Associate Professor of Education at Mount St. Mary's College.

This book is great for white folks trying to understand how to be good allies with people of color. It is not a matter of "finding out what's wrong with white folks" as sometimes assumed about books on dealing with racism. Rather, one is led and encouraged to explore ways to discover one's unaware privilege, conferred at birth, as a white person. And gently shown how much damage can be done

by exercising those privileges unawarely. As well as how much good can come by exercising them awarely.I came away not ashamed at all of my white privilege, but rather being able to truly appreciate them, wanting to use them as an ally with people oppressed by society, culture and laws, and really wanting everyone to have those same privileges.Shelly Tochluk has done humanity a great service.

If the idea of this book even remotely interests you, I think you'll be very satisfied with the experience. There are insights here that will appeal to many different people. And, some things that seem awkward or strange. I saw these as moments when two people discussing such a complicated topic differ in the personal expressions and emotional reactions experienced. It feels honest because of this, and makes it seem OK to share a range of thoughts and reactions with others as well. I'm new to this type of book, and thought it was a great introduction.

On Witnessing WhitenessShelly Tochluk calls us to witness racial practice in the U.S.Compelling remarkable and invaluable material about racial justice. A call to witnessing from a renewed white identity, building a new white culture, the author asks us, it is possible?What is put forth here is a proposal to build a new white identity aware and ready to make a stand for racial justice. A new white identity able to take part in the transformation of what a new racial dynamic can bring to the political, social, and economic fabric of the United States of America. It is not only a proposal, but a well documented and compelling analysis supported by historical data and a number of reputable contemporary voices in the forefront of the fight to end racism. Tochluk takes us to witnessing and invites us to look at positive contribution forms of participation and value added inclusion to the social equation from every group, especially white witnessing practices. The author widens the scope uncovering the ways racism is practiced in our 21st century. Through a number of paired interviews she conducted, she takes us through hidden forms of racism and conflict in interpersonal relations, work and educational settings. She uncovers patterns and presents us tools to deal with every situation.This book not only makes us aware, but calls for action through very specific organizations, a kind of rod map conceptually to make a difference through witnessing practices.Antonio Lainez

This book was used in a book club. I loved the format of the book and the writer's style. It is an excellent choice for any study on cultural or racial diversity.

This is an excellent foray into the history of racism and how it is perpetuated actively in our culture today. The opportunity to better understand the roots as well as the continued ignorance and blindnesses is truly awakening. I would recommend this book to anyone looking to open their eyes to a deeper and more rich experience of being alive in the world today.

Now the word "privilege" has a whole new meaning for me. I think we all need to better understand the difference between a "privilege" and a "right." What a better place the world would be if this distinction was clearly understood.

A real eye opener for those seeking to understand bias. The practice exercises are also excellent. Lots of food for thought - i've read this and referred back to it many times.

Needs a good edit.

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