

Du Bois Review: Social Science Research on Race

Special Issue | Call for Papers

Affirmative Action, DEI, and the Future of Racial Justice in Higher Education

Guest Editors

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The *Du Bois Review: Social Science Research on Race* invites submissions for a special issue examining the seismic shifts in American higher education following the Supreme Court's landmark June 2023 rulings in *Students for Fair Admissions, Inc. (SFFA) v. President and Fellows of Harvard College* and *SFFA v. University of North Carolina*.

The Court's decisions greatly restricted race-conscious admissions, holding that the specific policies used at Harvard and UNC violated the Equal Protection Clause of the 14th Amendment and Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. This ruling has not only transformed the admissions landscape, but the Trump administration has also weaponized it to reshape higher education writ large and enforcement efforts at federal agencies, dismantling Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) training and programming initiatives across the nation.

Scope of the Special Issue

We seek rigorous, multidisciplinary scholarship that interrogates the sociopolitical, legal, and institutional consequences of these rulings. Areas of interest include:

- **Institutional Responses:** How are universities navigating the Supreme Court ruling and negotiating commitments to diversity?
- **The DEI Backlash:** Analysis of the legislative and political movements targeting DEI offices and faculty hiring, as well as the influence of *SFFA* on these issues.
- **Impact on Pipeline and Access:** Empirical studies on the shifting demographics of incoming classes and the "trickle-down" effect on P-20+ education.
- **Legal and Constitutional Theory:** Re-evaluating the 14th Amendment, repressive legalism, and the concept of "colorblindness" in the current era.
- **Student and Faculty Agency:** The psychological and social impact of these rulings on campus climate and the sense of belonging for underrepresented groups.

- **Demographic and Social Stratification:** What are the downstream or unintended impacts of the bans on phenomena such as access to high-status careers and intergenerational wealth, as well as the impact on other spheres of higher education?
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Important Dates

- **Submission Deadline:** December 31, 2026
- **Review Process:** Standard peer-review turnaround applies.
- **Anticipated Publication:** Mid-Late 2027

Submission & Resource Links

The *Du Bois Review* is a peer-reviewed journal providing a forum for the best research on race from across the disciplines.

- **Journal Home Page:** [Cambridge Core - Du Bois Review](#)
- **Instructions for Contributors (Style Guide):** [DBR Submission Guidelines](#)

Submission Details

- **Manuscript Length:** Articles should typically range between **8,000 and 10,000 words**, including notes and references.
- **Submission Portal:** Manuscripts must be submitted through the [DBR submission portal](#). Please be sure to indicate your submission is for the Special Issue where prompted.
- **Inquiries:** Please contact the Guest Editors via the email addresses listed above for inquiries regarding the suitability of a topic.

“The problem of the twentieth century is the problem of the color-line.” — W. E. B. Du Bois

In the twenty-first century, that line is being redrawn; we invite you to help us map its new coordinates.

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