Sometimes Rugged, Sometimes Nice, and Sometimes Just Plain Mean

Black Children and Racialized Gender Identity

Dr. Denise Isom

Drawing from two qualitative studies of African American Children and their racialized gender identity, Dr. Denise Isom will discuss the meaning-making world of African American children, particularly how they expressed their ideas of gender and racial constructions (“Blackness”) and the intersections of race and gender—racialized gender identity. The children, both male and female, displayed a strong sense of and resistance to the racial projects which surround them. The idea of Blackness centered around the body, as well as deficit and deviance, functioned alongside their contrasting definition of Black as triumphant in the face of struggle, and as a testimony to overcoming. Dr. Denise Isom received her doctorate in Socio-Cultural Anthropology of Education from Loyola University, Chicago and is currently serving as Interim Vice President for Diversity and Equity & CDO at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo. Dr. Isom’s areas of expertise include racialized gender identity, ethnic studies, and sociology/anthropology of education and whiteness.

Thurs  
Feb 1st  
6-7:30pm  
MCC Theater  

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