



Beyond Respectability: The Intellectual Thought of Race Women

Brittney C. Cooper

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Beyond Respectability charts the development of African American women as public intellectuals and the evolution of their thought from the end of the 1800s through the Black Power era of the 1970s. Eschewing the Great Race Man paradigm so prominent in contemporary discourse, Brittney C. Cooper looks at the far-reaching intellectual achievements of female thinkers and activists like Anna Julia Cooper, Mary Church Terrell, Fannie Barrier Williams, Pauli Murray, and Toni Cade Bambara. Cooper delves into the processes that transformed these women and others into racial leadership figures, including long-overdue discussions of their theoretical output and personal experiences. As Cooper shows, their body of work critically reshaped our understandings of race and gender discourse. It also confronted entrenched ideas of how--and who--produced racial knowledge.

Beyond Respectability: The Intellectual Thought of Race Women Details

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From Reader Review Beyond Respectability: The Intellectual Thought of Race Women for online ebook

Sara says

More academic than I was expecting because I didn't read any information about it before I picked it up. I still loved the book. Cooper's writing is clear and precise and her arguments are compelling. Beyond Respectability introduced me to public intellectuals who I had previously known nothing.

Krystal says

This book deconstructs the scholarship of black women about their existence, challenging such layers as race, class, and gender, with attention to detail, spanning historical thought to present.

Ida Carey says

Exceptional read

This book presented a different perspective on the Race Woman. There is an abundance amount of information on past and present Intellectual black women. This is a great read for scholars, students and historians.

Matt Sautman says

Brittney Cooper's genealogy of black American female intellectuals fills in the margins that Hazel Carby left open at the end of *Reconstructing Womanhood*. Cooper focuses principally on a genealogy that begins with Frances Williams and the start of the National Association of Colored Women and carries forward to Patricia Hill Collins and Alice Walker. Cooper's writing is easily accessible and thought provoking as she challenges both the need to keep these women authors in critical circulation and how these women defy much of what has been generally accepted about the Civil Rights Movement (that it was principally a man's movement) and the evolution of ideas (such as Mary Church Terrell's own ideas that would anticipate what Kimberlé Crenshaw would call intersectionality). This book has value for historians and those fascinated by black feminist studies alike.

gnarlyhiker says

“Beyond Respectability: The Intellectual Thought of Race Women” is well-argued, well-written and informative. It is a perfect read for those readers who are not familiar with Black women intellectuals and activist from the 19th and 20th century, as well as to the present. 3.5

good luck

**ARC/publisher/Netgalley

Jenn says

4.5/5

Review to come

Cherisse says

I love this book because it reaffirmed what I have always known to be true, that black women were thinkers and activists. Brittany Cooper expertly centers black women as intellectuals and knowledge producers in a history that dates back to the nineteenth century. I especially loved the last line of the book, "Black women are serious thinkers, and it's our scholarly duty to take them seriously." I took my time reading Cooper's work because I wanted to "sit with it" and absorb every ounce of this masterful contribution to intellectual history.

Jessica Williams says

Put some respect on my mind!

I am a race woman, and I want my mind to be honored.

In Cooper's book, she elegantly reminds us of the women who marked the world with their thoughts (i.e., we have intellectuals like, Fannie Williams, Mary Terrell, Pauli Murry, Toni Bambara, and Anna Cooper who have aroused the public sphere.)

Gender roles and society's norms apropos of the sexes torment women today (although it is done covertly.)

Cooper shared with me the Black intellectual history vis-a-vis to feminism. And, it allowed my mind to formulate extraordinary thoughts. Just as we discovered that Caucasians could not accurately define and analyze our thoughts and identity as people of color, we can apply this thought on a micro level concerning the sexes. Could Black intellectual men faithfully transmit their ideas to understand women of color? It is evident that women should study themselves. Our mission, as women, is to assert to the Universe and all who thrive on this plane of life, that we are WOMEN as well as intellectuals. We deserve credit when analyzing our people.

Today, women of color are still at the bottom of the socioeconomic scale, and something must be done. We have to battle with racism in this white supremacist society, as well as endure the consequences of male superiority. We are creators, and our ancestors would be displeased with our docileness. It's time to wake up from our dreams ladies.

Liliyana Shadowlyn says

As someone who is completely unfamiliar with black women in the public sphere and activism, I found this to be extremely enlightening. It's very well written and informative.
