

Huante, Alfredo. 2021. "A Lighter Shade of Brown? Racial Formation and Gentrification in Latino Los Angeles." *Social Problems* 68:63-79

PRIMARY ARGUMENT: The author argues that new race and class formations develop—even in mostly non-White areas—as a result of gentrification and that it doesn't always require a mass influx of White gentrifiers to do so.

IMPORTANT DEFINED CONCEPTS:

- Gentrification: The process of changing the character of a neighborhood through the influx of more affluent residents and businesses; increases the value of the neighborhood and displaces the original residents.
- Racial Formation Theory: A theory that argues that race is a dynamic concept shaped by sociohistorical processes that have, in turn, uniquely defined our history and society.
- Gente-fication: The return of educated and upwardly mobile Mexican Americans to working class neighborhoods.

PRIMARY FINDINGS:

1. Whites reproduce solidarity grounded in whiteness and establish group status favoring Latinos that are amicable towards gentrification and marginalizing those that oppose it.
2. Three different categories developed in this city: White gentrifiers, Latino anti-gentrifiers, and middle-class Latinos Huante refers to as "honorary Whites" similar to the Bonilla-Silva article.
3. Some Mexican Americans perceive gente-fication as less threatening than gentrification by Whites because they view it as a way to economically benefit and empower the barrio's Mexican American community.
4. Gente-fication, when viewed as working class solidarity, entails social activism and securing affordable housing for the residents that are vulnerable to displacement in order to promote racial and economic advancement.

KEY QUOTE: "The racialization of white gentrifiers, Latino residents who view gente-fication as economic and racial uplift, and Latinos positing a gente-fication grounded in working-class solidarity, has constructed a racial hierarchy reminiscent of a tri-racial hierarchy... which cumulatively protect whites' dominant position and, simultaneously, advance gentrification." (75)

QUESTION: What measures can or should be taken to improve the economic welfare of working class Black and brown communities without displacing the residents and eroding the integrity of the community's culture and history?