

Abstract: Whiteness, Inequality and Love

The debate over the cause of racial inequality has long focused on the dueling narratives of merit or malice; either an objective meritocratic system produces fair but unequal results that should be left alone, or systemic racism is holding people down and must be fought. I've argued that Whiteness can instead be modeled as an emergent, complex, self-sustaining system that works to perpetuate racial inequality. Analogously to network economic goods or swarm intelligence, Whiteness can maintain its advantage even in the absence of either superior merit or racial malice. This brings us to the question of what should be done about it. Is there any moral obligation to address or correct racial inequality that is unfair—because it is not the result of an effective meritocracy—but for which nobody in particular is to blame—since it is not the product of intentional malice? The answer is yes, because of love. And it is an answer that will help people peel away from self-reinforcing beliefs that are overly individualistic and materialistic, and that are also, ultimately, self-destructive.

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