Why Race and Culture Matter

Bourdieu's (1986) analysis has been useful as a starting point for understanding and examining cultural capital, but some have challenged its usefulness for communities of color and for working-class individuals. Yosso (2005) states that Bourdieu's cultural capital framework makes "the assumption that People of Color 'lack' the social and cultural capital required for social mobility" (p. 70). She contends that the idea of a particular type of capital that is required for social mobility operates from the standpoint that "some communities are culturally wealthy while others are culturally poor" (p. 76). Yosso provides a compelling and inclusive framework that builds on Bourdieu's work by recognizing the cultural complexities, richness, and uniqueness of culture that non-White communities possess. She refers to it as Communities of Color cultural wealth.

1. Aspirational Capital

2. Linguistic Capital

3. Familial Capital

4. Social Capital

5. Navigational Capital

6. Resistant Capital

Why Race and Culture Matter

Bourdieu's (1986) analysis has been useful as a starting point for understanding and examining cultural capital, but some have challenged its usefulness for communities of color and for working-class individuals. Yosso (2005) states that Bourdieu's cultural capital framework makes "the assumption that People of Color 'lack' the social and cultural capital required for social mobility" (p. 70). She contends that the idea of a particular type of capital that is required for social mobility operates from the standpoint that "some communities are culturally wealthy while others are culturally poor" (p. 76). Yosso provides a compelling and inclusive framework that builds on Bourdieu's work by recognizing the cultural complexities, richness, and uniqueness of culture that non-White communities possess. She refers to it as Communities of Color cultural wealth.

1. Aspirational Capital, which refers to the resiliency and ability to nurture hopes and dreams for upward mobility despite constant obstacles.

2. Linguistic Capital, which is the intellectual and communicative skills and experiences used in multiple languages.

3. Familial Capital, which refers to the capital produced and maintained by family members.

4. Social Capital, which is the people and community resources used for educational or professional opportunity and advancement.

5. Navigational Capital, or the skills and ability to maneuver through institutions that are frequently hostile or oppositional to people of color.

6. Resistant Capital, which is the knowledge and skills used to challenge inequality and oppression.