

Lecture: January 10th, 2017

- When analyzing film, what should we think about?
    - How does the film make you feel?
    - How does the film evoke this feeling?
    - Does it make you generate ideas? How?
  - **Screening: Freedom Riders**
    - Yeah you don't really have to know this stuff
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Lecture: January 12th, 2017

- Film Studies as a Discipline
  - 1856, first film created, new medium
  - Everyone's mind was blown
    - First films were of everyday activities
- **Screening: Ethnic Notions** (Directed by Marlon Riggs, 1986)
  - Documentary that provides an analysis of the representation of African Americans in media
  - Utilizes old footage, archival photos, scholar analysis
  - Early Filmmakers created a "film language" that will communicate ideas that are still used today (techniques)
  - Film language was becoming normal during a time of racism
    - People are setting standards in filmmaking that already contain racist depictions
  - Film's form became linked with its own racist ideas
  - Birth of Nation (by DW Griffith, 1915)
    - One of the first cinematic films
    - Portrayed black men as aggressive and evil, KKK as heroic force
    - Ended up justifying racial ideas and oppression
  - Images took on the power of Speech
  - Representation
    - Cinema brings together two senses of representation
      - As **Portrait** (picture, descriptions)
      - As **Proxy** (Political stand ins)
    - These are often mixed together in cinema, but it is important to understand how they are separate
  - **The Cinematic as a Terrain of Struggle**
    - Describes the work of the proxy
      - What are the implications of the particular representations?
      - What does it do to society?
      - What beliefs and conceptions of the world does it challenge and/or does it support?

- Post-Reconstruction of the Civil War
    - Some wanted African Americans to have more representation
    - Those who were against freedom began depicting African Americans as savage and out of control
  - Ethnic notions Analyzed:
    - Breaks traditional documentary norms
      - Performer in current day impersonates a persecuted black performer (Bert Williams)
      - Technique catches audience's attention
    - Black performers were famous and well known, yet still segregated and mistreated
  - The Struggle over the meaning and significance of images precedes- it has a history
  - They form the terms and language through which we make and remake the world we share
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Lecture: January 17th, 2017

- Article: **Conceptualization of Ethnicity (by Ford and Harawa)**
- Screening: **(Amreeka)**
- Special Speaker: Chandra Ford (UCLA)

Race and Ethnicity: Public Health Critical Race Perspectives

- Conceptualizing and Measuring Race
  - **Race-** A division of mankind possessing traits that are transmissible by descent and sufficient to characterize it as a distinct human type
  - Second Definition: Persons who are relatively homogeneous with respect to biological inheritance
- US OMB Race Categories
  - White
  - Black/African American
  - American Indian or Alaska Native
  - Asian
  - Hawaiian or Pacific Islander
  - Other
- Race is a Social Construct:
  - Pure races do not exist in the real world, not today and not in the past
  - Race is a term made by people: not genetics or geographic location
- Ford and Harawa race definitions
  - **Race-** A vast group of people loosely bound together by historically significant elements
  - **Defining Race:**
    - Phenotype (what we see, not genotype)
    - Definition changes over time

- Definition change with individuals
  - Self Identification
    - Gold standard (best measure of race is reported by the person himself)
    - Tied to cultural context
  - Definition changes from place to place
  - **Defining Ethnicity:**
    - Sometimes vague term
    - Sometimes used as a euphemism for race
    - Two Dimensions:
      - **Attributional Dimension**- Cultural factors, language
      - **Relational Dimension**- Social context, relationship with other groups
  - Race Relations
    - Race inherently exists relative to one another
    - Sociopolitical factors influence what is valued or devalued about each group
    - Social stratification, not race, determines race relations
      - Race is created because we want to organize and separate groups from one another
  - Whiteness:
    - Race is not only an attribute that minorities have
    - Variability within the category white
      - Over time
      - Different across social conditions or contexts
      - Situational whiteness
      - Cultural whiteness
    - Whiteness and sociological position
    - Power and privilege
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Lecture: January 19th, 2017

### Screening: Amreeka

- **Formal Analysis**- dissects the complex synthesis of cinematography, sound, composition, design, movement, performance, and editing as they are orchestrated by screenwriters, directors, cinematographers, actors, editors, sound directors, and art directors, as well as the many craftspeople who implement their vision
- Terms to know
  - Shot
  - Editing- basic creative force behind cinema
  - Composition- generally the make up of the objects in a shot
  - Diegesis- total world of the story, setting, characters, etc.
    - Diegetic elements
    - Non-diegetic elements- things that are added to the character's world

- Ford and Harawa Article
    - “We define ethnicity as a context specific, multilevel, multifactorial, social construct that is tied to race and used to both distinguish diverse populations and to establish personal or group identity”
    - Two components of ethnicity
      - **Attributional Dimension**- describes the unique sociocultural characteristics (culture, diet, etc)
      - **Relational Dimensions**- Relationship between an ethnically defined group and the society in which it is situated
    - “Arguably the dominant axis of social stratification, racialization fundamentally shapes social exposures, life chances and health outcomes. It also drives understanding about socially constructed difference. We define race as a social construct linked to phenotype and/or ancestry that indexes one’s locations on the US social hierarchy of socially constructed groupings that have been based primarily on skin color... and used for more than 200 years in the US”
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Lecture: January 31, 2017

### Screening: The Alamo

- Cinema and Media as Institutions
  - Struggles to create a shared view of ethnicity
  - Cinema and media is both art and commerce
  - A place where we try to come to a consensus
  - Part of the relational aspect of ethnicity
- History of the Alamo
  - 1846-1848- The Mexican American War
    - The Alamo, February- march 1836
    - Why the Alamo Story?
      - Battle for independence
      - Sense of having one independence
  - 1911- The first Alamo story filmed (and lost)
  - 1915- The Martyrs of the Alamo
    - Perpetuated existing stereotypes of Mexicans
    - Re-released in the the 1920s as “The Birth of Texas”
      - See mexican as insolent, lazy, lecherous
      - Non-diegetic intertitles (it was a silent film) tell audience how to perceive mexicans
      - Titles say that the mexican flag can no longer represent freedom because Mexican nature
      - Sets tone and stage on how “the Alamo” will be told in the future
      - Has feeling of American Superiority