“The Disjunction between National Identity Formation and the Lived Experience of Racism in the Postcolonial Dutch Caribbean”

Angela E. Roe, M.A.
Florida International University, Miami
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Occupation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Upper Class</td>
<td>Dutch Protestants, Sephardic Jews</td>
<td>Ruling class, plantation owners, Trade, agriculture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle Class</td>
<td>Dutch Protestants, Sephardic Jews, Middle Easterners, Asians, “Mulattos”</td>
<td>Artisans, workmen in construction &amp; harbor, sailors, Trade, administration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lower Class</td>
<td>Freed blacks, Slaves</td>
<td>Artisans, workmen in construction &amp; harbor, sailors, house slaves, artisans, workmen, sailors</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Drecha rasa = “fixing the race”

(Papiamentu, Curacao’s creole language)
“You can do whatever you like, I just don’t want you to come home with a black man”
“Oh he’s black... Well, as long as he is nice to you”
“What kind of black is he, Obama or Shaka Zulu?”
“Racism?
No, that’s something from the past, from the days of slavery.
But that has been over for quite a while now.”
“Nowadays everyone can be president”
“Plenty of black people now have really good jobs and lots of money”
“Everyone can achieve the same things, you just gotta work for it.

But Curacaoans are lazy. They want everything for free. So if they don’t do well, it’s their own fault”.
“Hidden” or “Color-Blind” Racism

Racism without Racists
Eduardo Bonilla-Silva 2006

“Color-Blind” Racism
Leslie Carr 1997
“We have no racism here, because we are all *Curacaosans*, regardless of race, ancestry, color or class”.
Yu di Korsou
Child of Curacao
Curacao’s red soil...
National Identity Formation

• History
• Territory / soil
• Language – Papiamentu
• Enemy or opponent – colonizer and patriarch the Netherlands.
• Love for the island
• Sense of profound belonging
• Contributes to Curacao’s well-being
• Know the culture
“that’s just the way it is”
The Yu’i Korsou identity places the equality that Curacaoans seek forever out of reach, because by rendering racism invisible, racial inequality continues.

Undisturbed.