

Shannon Sullivan *Revealing Whiteness: The Unconscious Habits of Racial Privilege* (Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press, 2006). Pp. 264. \$22.95 (paper). ISBN 0253218489

A Philosophical Invitation for Racial Social Change

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Ignoring race and subscribing to the colorblind mentality haven't proven to alter race relations in the United States. Shannon Sullivan argues in her *Revealing Whiteness: The Unconscious Habits of Racial Privilege*, however, that the conscious awareness of white privilege and the notion of colorblindness is not enough to fight the problem.

Revealing Whiteness argues that white people must step away from the colorblindness ideal of anti-racism and move towards a conscious understanding of white identity that promotes equality while also acknowledging and deconstructing privilege. The concept of colorblindness has fueled the subconscious promotion of white purity while removing whiteness from the racial discourse of everyday life; in many cases, white people do not acknowledge that they live with race issues. This habit perpetuates the belief that whites do not constitute a race, thereby implying that their whiteness is irrelevant to racial discourse.

The topic of white privilege and social advantage in western society is not a new one. Sullivan's work, however, is a study of white America and its relationship with people of color. Her book progresses beyond "unpacking the invisible knapsack." (McIntosh 1990) McIntosh provided a list of ways to *see* privilege in our lives with few suggestions on how to change the situation. Sullivan attempts this in her book. As a professor

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