In this moment of a turn to identity politics in the United States, mitigating the detrimental impacts of ideologies and hierarchies predicated on the idea of race is ever more important. Although race is not a scientific fact, it is a social fact that operates through ascribed categories anchored in a white/black binary with other color-coded categories capriciously placed in between. These structured not only accentuate difference; they also sow division. Based on a conceptual framework of “micro-cultures” drawn from analyses of extensive, ethnographic interviews with people who are socially defined within each of the five main, ascribed racial categories in the U.S., this presentation argues for ways to move beyond the severe limitations of current narratives of race and difference. It further argues that the role of education is imperative in understanding the complexities and contradictions of how race and difference are enacted and also critical for challenging and progressively changing these social constructions in the U.S. and internationally.

**ABSTRACT**

Deconstructing Race / Reconstructing Difference: Beyond the U.S. Paradigm

**BIO**

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