

Is this what you call racial discrimination?: Chinese immigrant workers in multiracial Chicago



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Based on extensive ethnographic research, this talk explores the multiple layers of complexity in the development of racial knowledge among Chinese immigrant workers in Bridgeport, a multiracial working-class neighborhood adjacent to Chicago's Chinatown. I observe that established notions of racism as based on the black and white binary can no longer account for Chinese immigrant workers' contradictory experiences in Bridgeport, ones mediated by multiple axes including race, class, nation, and immigration status. Instead of being merely victims of the U.S. racial structure, Chinese immigrant workers have developed an alternative knowledge system in navigating multiracial Chicago.

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