Burdened by Race

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About this Publication:

Since its emergence in the late 19th century, coloured identity has been pivotal to racial thinking in southern African societies. The nature of colouredness has always been a highly emotive and controversial issue because it embodies many of the racial antagonisms, ambiguities and derogations prevalent in the subcontinent. Throughout their existence coloured communities have had to contend with the predicament of being marginal minorities stigmatised as the insalubrious by-products of miscegenation. 

*Burdened by Race* showcases recent innovative research and writing on coloured identity in southern Africa. Drawing on a wide range of disciplines and applying fresh theoretical insights, the book brings new levels of understanding to processes of coloured self-identification. This collection also breaks virgin ground by examining diverse manifestations of colouredness across the region, using interlinking themes and case studies from South Africa, Zimbabwe, Zambia and Malawi to present analyses that both challenge and overturn much of the conventional wisdom around the identity in the current literature.
Contents Include:

Chapter 1: From narratives of miscegenation to post-modernist re-imagining: towards a historiography of coloured identity in South Africa
Chapter 2: ‘…[C]onfused about being coloured’: creolisation and coloured identity in Chris van Wyk’s Shirley, Goodness and Mercy
Chapter 3: Trauma and memory: the impact of apartheid-era forced removals on coloured identity in Cape Town
Chapter 4: Identity and forced displacement: community and colouredness in District Six
Chapter 5: Collaboration, assimilation and contestation: emerging constructions of coloured identity in post-apartheid South Africa
Chapter 6: ‘We are the original inhabitants of this land’: Khoe-San identity in post-apartheid South Africa
Chapter 7: Race, ethnicity and the politics of positioning: the making of coloured identity in colonial Zimbabwe, 1890–1980
Chapter 8: Absent white fathers: coloured identity in Zambia
Chapter 9: A generous dream, but difficult to realize: the making of the Anglo-African community of Nyasaland, 1929–1940

Of Interest and Benefit to:

Students, academics and the educated lay reader interested in African studies, history, sociology, political science, postcolonial, postmodern and cultural studies, and identity studies.