“WHERE ARE YOU FROM?”

Growing Up African-Canadian in Vancouver

Metro Vancouver is a diverse city where half the residents identify as people of colour, but only one per cent of the population is racialized as Black. In this context, African-Canadians are both hypervisible as Black, and invisible as distinct communities. Informed by feminist and critical race theories, and based on interviews with women and men who grew up in Vancouver, *“Where Are You From?”* recounts the unique experiences of growing up in a place where the second generation seldom sees other people who look like them, and yet are inundated with popular representations of Blackness from the United States.

This study explores how the second generation in Vancouver redefine their African identities to distinguish themselves from African-Americans, while continuing to experience considerable everyday racism that challenges belonging as Canadians. As a result, some members of the second generation reject, and others strongly assert, a Canadian identity.

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