

Joseph’s book is one of the first scholarly works on mixed-race identity to emerge from the field of communication. Her foray is testimony to the fact that this field is growing ever-more interdisciplinary, a fact to be celebrated and yet which heralds particular challenges. Scholars are often publishing in journals traditionally associated either with a particular discipline or with a particular ethnic orientation; so, with the exception of *MELUS* and the newly-minted *Journal of Critical Mixed Race Studies*, there have been few shared publishing venues in which to see what others are doing or have done in critical mixed race studies. This also has important implications for scholars coming up for tenure and promotion: they may need a department chair’s leadership in encouraging review committees to seek evaluations from scholars outside what they may have considered the boundaries of their discipline. Even then, the best interdisciplinary work can reflect both gaps and overlaps. In *Transcending Blackness*, for instance, Joseph is admirably attempting to integrate many different critical interests and methodological approaches, but understandably these cannot always be fully reconciled. And perhaps because Joseph is moving across communication, race theories, and gender studies—and doing so across many media—*Transcending Blackness* cannot always pay full attention to differences of form, genre, and mode. But truly these are minor quibbles, significant only to the extent they are representative of the challenges facing all critical mixed race scholars today. And it is important to note that while these interdisciplinary challenges should be acknowledged, they also lead to refreshing lines of inquiry in *Transcending Blackness*. Her efforts to join the social sciences with the humanities enables a particularly keen analysis of the significance of gender across public, political and performative representations of mixed race. Furthermore, Joseph’s thoughtful attention to the complex intersectionality of race, gender and social position in contemporary society suggests the wider relevance of the study of mixed race serving as an important reminder that mixed
race scholarship is not a narrowly provincial or specialized sub-field but rather a window onto American culture itself.

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