"What You Mean I'm Pretty Good For A Whiteboy?": Race and Privilege Cognizance Among Whites In Traditionally Black Hip Hop Culture

Whiteness theory seeks to deconstruct and expose whiteness as the norm in America. Because socially constructed whiteness is the norm, those who are white or may be white identified, enjoy extensive privileges. As whiteness becomes normalized it also becomes invisible. The invisibility of whiteness results in the invisibility of privilege. Because whiteness and privilege are invisible, those who benefit from white privilege may not be cognizant of race or privilege. It has been said that because young white folks are crossing racial lines, they have discovered a means to racial equality. This study draws on interviews with young white folks to examine whether their participation in hip hop culture has made them aware of white privilege. While some white folks are leaving segregated white spaces and becoming race and privilege cognizant (Frankenberg 1993), the study found, many whites stay in almost exclusively white social circles. As a result, it is possible for many