

The Department of Sociology and Sociology Club

Brooklyn College of the City University of New York

*in cooperation with the Ethyle R. Wolfe Institute for the Humanities, presents
The Fifteenth Charles R. Lawrence II Memorial Lecture*

The Sweet Enchantment of Post-Civil Rights Racism: America's Racial Nightmare from the 1970s until the Obama Moment



For some time, whites have argued that America is beyond race. Even members of the Klan claim they are not “racist,” just pro-white and liken their politics to those of the NAACP. The 2008 election of America’s first black President seems to be the ultimate proof that whites were right in their claim. But as in *Alice In Wonderland*, things are not what they seem down the rabbit’s hole. In this presentation, Professor Bonilla-Silva will argue that racism, as a system, changed in the 1960s to a more sophisticated regime. This regime, which he has called “the new racism,” has racial practices that tend to operate in “now you see it, now you don’t” fashion and has developed a formidable racial ideology that helps glue all sort of racial matters: the ideology of color-blind racism. Describing the new racism and its accompanying ideology as well as relating how they help explain the Obama phenomenon will be the core of this talk.

Eduardo Bonilla-Silva is professor and chair of sociology at Duke University. Professor Bonilla-Silva gained visibility in the social sciences with his 1997 *American Sociological Review* article, “Rethinking Racism: Toward a Structural Interpretation,” where he challenged social analysts to analyze racial matters from a structural perspective rather than from the sterile prejudice perspective. His most recent appearance was on the PBS election special, *Race 2012*.

Thursday, May 2, 2013

3:30 to 5 p.m.

Penthouse

**Brooklyn College Student Center
Campus Road and East 27th Street
Reception to follow**

For more information please contact the Sociology Department: (718) 951-5314