“This paper does not, however, ask simply about the impact of two main effects, Anglo/Latino contact and Anglos’ acknowledgment of hardships faced by Latinos. Rather, we ask how the two potential predictors may interact in shaping immigration policy opinion. These two factors may not be highly correlated. Difficulties in the lives of subordinate groups will not necessarily be salient in all instances of cross-group interaction. Even when friendship is involved, realities in the lives of subordinate group members may be invisible to dominant group interaction partners, for predictable reasons….In short, we need to learn more about the overall impact Anglo/Latino contact may have on Anglos’ immigration policy views, and about the impact of acknowledgment that Latinos face hardships and barriers. But the question about which we have the fewest answers is this: Might a pattern more complicated than joint main effects exist, with contact facilitating progressive opinion on immigration policy, but only among Anglos who are aware of the hardships Latinos face?”

— MARYLEE C. TAYLOR, MARIA KRYSAN AND MATTHEW HALL

“The prevailing categories used to analyze Black political actors have failed to capture Barack Obama’s approach to racial politics satisfactorily. While it is clear that Obama was never a partisan of the racialized Black nationalist tradition, his recognition of the continued impact of slavery, Jim Crow, and segregation on African Americans’ life outcomes as well as his commitment to racially targeted remedies makes any attempt to categorize him as a deracialized politician unsatisfactory.”

— RICHARD JOHNSON

“The names associated with the high-profile cases easily roll off the tongue: Eric Garner, Freddie Gray, and Tamir Rice. Other names, such as Jermaine Darden, Dontay Ivy, and Tommy Yancy, are not part of the national conversation; their names only ring out in the voices of their loved ones. How do particular cases within a broad class of events become part of the public consciousness? Communications scholars have long recognized the power of the news to set issues and events on the public agenda. However, the public agenda is a finite space, meaning that only some stories become fodder for public conversation, while others, and the particular sets of issues they raise, are relegated to the sidelines.”

— ALICIA D. SIMMONS

“There is also the more scholarly view, which suggests a more complicated and divergent view of African American progress. First, cross-sectional estimates of the extent of racial inequality indicate substantial improvements in the relative socioeconomic standings of African Americans from 1940 to 1980, but only marginal and fluctuating changes since 1980. It has been suggested further gains in employment and occupational advancement were limited by the growing opposition to affirmative action and other race-targeted programs coupled with economic restructuring beginning in the mid-1970s. Second, it is generally acknowledged that all segments of the African American population did not benefit from the expanded educational and occupational opportunities available in American society. Indeed, there is empirical evidence suggesting that approximately a third of the African American population is concentrated in areas of high poverty and crime, and limited educational and employment opportunities have resulted in little or no improvements in their socioeconomic circumstances.”

— FRANKLIN D. WILSON