

Our Shared Future, Reckoning with Our Racial Past Forum: The Big Picture with Akilah Hughes: What's Real about Race?

Forum Date: August 26, 2021

Video Length: 2 minutes, 11 seconds

Graphics on screen

Our Shared Future
Reckoning with Our Racial Past
Smithsonian Forum

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The Big Picture:
What's Real About Race?
With Akilah Hughes

Visual

Akilah on screen

Akilah

Hey there. I'm Akilah Hughes, I'm a writer, comedian, and podcast host. Here to give you the big picture all about race. And I'm Black, if you didn't notice. You know, make a note. I'll let you in on a little secret. Racism exists, but we can overcome racism by being honest about it and where it is perpetuated and how our lives are affected by it. For example, we have all heard stereotypes about each other. So without saying out loud, see if you can identify which group has been said to lack rhythm and spices. Who's been called cheap? Who is said to love chicken? Who has too many kids and the whole family living under their roof? Who's good at math? All of those are damaging stereotypes, and we've all heard them, and we all know in reality those things aren't true of an entire group of any kind of people, even when it's a positive stereotype, like this group has money or that group's athletic. Buying and selling those kinds of stereotypes really sets up a world of inequality that we're here to fix. When we talk about racism, people get bummed out and shut down because we're going to talk about it. You know, like, let's really unpack what feels uncomfortable about admitting our place in a system of inequality. You know how some people say that they don't see color and then that means that the makeup on their face doesn't match the makeup on their neck? Right. That's the problem. We see color. I mean, unless we're literally colorblind. And if you are, please don't cancel me, because it's all love. And the world we should be working towards is not colorblind. It appreciates our differences, and, and, and, it works to dismantle this pile of discrimination that y'all know is real. Racism is part of every part of our lives. And the more you learn about how it affects wellness, how it affects wealth and how generational trauma affects people, the more you can apply that awareness to your life and help be part of the change. You don't have to thank me right now, though. You probably will at some point. I'll be waiting.

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What's Real About Race?

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Watch the entire forum and view additional resources at ourshedsuture.si.edu/race