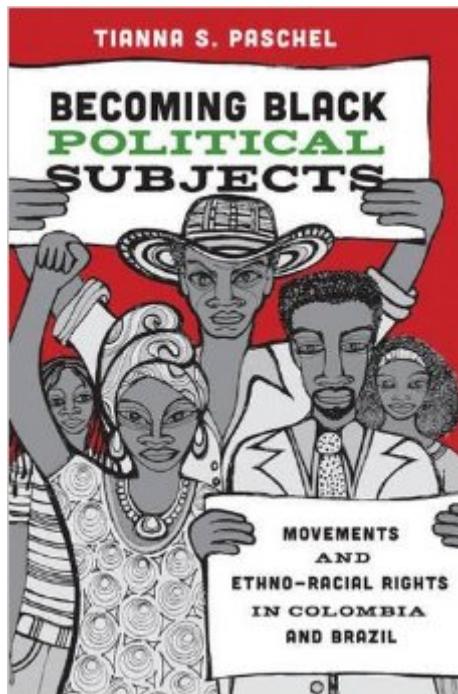


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Becoming Black Political Subjects: Movements And Ethno-Racial Rights In Colombia And Brazil



Synopsis

After decades of denying racism and underplaying cultural diversity, Latin American states began adopting transformative ethno-racial legislation in the late 1980s. In addition to symbolic recognition of indigenous peoples and black populations, governments in the region created a more pluralistic model of citizenship and made significant reforms in the areas of land, health, education, and development policy. *Becoming Black Political Subjects* explores this shift from color blindness to ethno-racial legislation in two of the most important cases in the region: Colombia and Brazil. Drawing on archival and ethnographic research, Tianna Paschel shows how, over a short period, black movements and their claims went from being marginalized to become institutionalized into the law, state bureaucracies, and mainstream politics. The strategic actions of a small group of black activists--working in the context of domestic unrest and the international community's growing interest in ethno-racial issues--successfully brought about change. Paschel also examines the consequences of these reforms, including the institutionalization of certain ideas of blackness, the reconfiguration of black movement organizations, and the unmaking of black rights in the face of reactionary movements. *Becoming Black Political Subjects* offers important insights into the changing landscape of race and Latin American politics and provokes readers to adopt a more transnational and flexible understanding of social movements.

Book Information

Hardcover: 328 pages

Publisher: Princeton University Press (July 5, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0691169381

ISBN-13: 978-0691169385

Product Dimensions: 6 x 1.1 x 9.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

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Best Sellers Rank: #89,509 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #3 in Books > History > Americas > South America > Colombia #5 in Books > History > Americas > South America > Brazil #31 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Politics & Government > International & World Politics > Caribbean & Latin American

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