
Wingfield looked at the 25% of black men in America who are employed in professional or managerial jobs, providing a window into power and inequality issues in the workplace. She conducted in-depth interviews with forty-two men—African American lawyers, doctors, engineers, and bankers and a few white male professionals—allowing subjects to describe in detail their occupational experiences. Far from painting a stark and uniform picture of racism, discrimination, and stereotyping, Wingfield’s black respondents revealed that they were able to establish easy relationships with white as well as black male colleagues. Wingfield hypothesizes that this limits cross-class solidarity within the black community and the ability to challenge racism in general. Black male professionals acknowledged the tokenism they still face. These men often developed a propensity to display indifference rather than anger in reaction to racialized experiences, a response with negative implications for their health. Wingfield’s informants frequently gained an enhanced appreciation for the challenges faced by women in their professions, and the author suggests that “black men may be important supporters in attempts to challenge and end sexism.” (p. 162)