

Guglielmo, Jennifer, & Salerno, Salvatore. (2003). *Are Italians White? : How Race is Made in America*. New York: Routledge Press.

This book is a collection of sixteen essays written by mostly Italian-American authors. It is divided into four sections that cover the full range of the Italian immigrant experience from the 19th century to the present. During their work together, the two Italian-American scholars Jennifer Guglielmo and Salvatore Salerno, were deeply affected by the murder of an African-American young man by an Italian-American man in Chicago, and the murders of African-American men in Howard Beach, Queens, and Bensonhurst, Brooklyn. They asked the question, "What are we going to do about racism in our communities?" The book gives the reader a deeper understanding of the complexity of the relationships between African-Americans and Italian-Americans. Jennifer Guglielmo wrote that Italian-Americans, who in addition to discrimination had the privilege of whiteness, objectified African-American with the stigma of criminality and distanced themselves to legitimate racist violence and to focus on their own fear. She notes that Italian-Americans relationships with African-Americans have been complicated by a history of "collaboration, intimacy, hostility, and distancing."

Reading this book helps the facilitator understand that developing cohesion in a group with people who have a complicated history, requires a focus on identifying and respecting where each person is in the process.

Julie Sullivan-Redmond, LCSW-R