

## Haitians in Boston: New Immigrants and New Blacks in an Old Immigrant City

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### Abstract

Although much of the scholarly attention on the ‘new immigration’ has focused on Asian or Hispanic populations, the shifting composition and stratification of the Black community is an equally fascinating story. This paper is based on a book manuscript entitled *No Longer Invisible: Haitian Immigrants in the ‘New’ Boston*, an ethnographic project that explores the growth and development of the third largest settlement of Haitians in the United States. I summarize my findings regarding the social, economic and political incorporation of Haitians and the resultant transformation of race and ethnic relations in the city of Boston. The discussion reinforces the notion that immigrants are not alone in adapting to new contexts; the cities in which they settle adjust as well. The conclusion asks: does the incorporation of Haitians signal a meaningful departure from a history of racial exclusion and subordination of Blacks in Boston or is the “color line” simply being redrawn?

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