



# Troubling the Waters: Fulfilling the Promise of Quality Public Schooling for Black Children

*Jerome Morris*

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"In an 'either-or' world of structural versus symbolic, liberal versus conservative, and segregated versus desegregated, Jerome Morris elucidates a 'third way' approach to analyzing the plight of African Americans as they seek educational opportunities to enhance their lives. This multisite study of resilience, agency, and community provides a vision reminiscent of the African tradition of Sankofa -to return to the root in order to move forward." -

**Gloria Ladson-Billings**, University of Wisconsin-Madison

"Perhaps the most important contribution of this welcome book is the way it refocuses our attention on the character of high-achieving schools for urban African American children. It is an impressive addition to a growing body of work attesting to the particular power of social capital in the lives of poor children."-

**Charles M. Payne**, The University of Chicago

"*Troubling the Waters* comes at a time when society is demanding of urban schools massive improvements even as it is systematically abandoning these very institutions. This book will become required reading for those who seek insights into achieving the one Great Ideal, as Du Bois put it the abolition of the color line.'-**Garrett Albert Duncan**, Washington University, St. Louis

"While color-blind conservatives dismiss the significance of race, and race-conscious liberals pursue desegregation remedies within narrower legal parameters, Morris's timely ethnographic study reflects the wisdom of W.E.B. Du Bois: 'The Negro needs neither segregated nor mixed schools. What he needs is education.'"

-**Jack Dougherty**, Trinity College

Based on extensive fieldwork in schools and communities in St. Louis and Atlanta, *Troubling the Waters* captures the experiences of today's African American families like no other book. Reframing the debates around urban schooling, Jerome Morris offers an empirically based, research foundation for a new approach to quality schooling for African Americans. In this contemporary critique, Morris counters the views by many neoconservatives that racism no longer exists, while simultaneously offering a poignant analysis of the desegregation-only paradigm toward achieving Brown's promises.

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