



MTO 26.2 Examples: Ewell, Music Theory and the White Racial Frame

(Note: audio, video, and other interactive examples are only available online)

<https://mtosmt.org/issues/mto.20.26.2/mto.20.26.2.ewell.html>

Example 1. Racial demographic data for musical examples from seven American music theory textbooks

Textbook	Percentage of market share	Total # of examples	# of examples by nonwhites	Percentage of examples by nonwhites
Aldwell and Schachter, 4th ed. (2011)	5	465	0	0%
Benward and Saker, 9th ed. (2015)	13	333	8	2.40%
Burstein and Straus, 1st ed. (2016)	11	304	1	0.33%
Clendinning and Marvin, 3rd ed. (2016)	25	504	15	2.98%
Kostka, Payne, and Almén, 8th ed. (2018)	29	370	10	2.70%
Laitz, 4th ed. (2015)	8	550	2	0.36%
Roig-Francoli, 2nd ed. (2010)	5	404	13	3.22%
TOTALS	96	2930	49	1.67%

Example 2. Hesse's "8 Degrees of Whiteness"

There is a regime of whiteness, and there are action-oriented white identities. People who identify with whiteness are one of these. It's about time we build an ethnography of whiteness, since white people have been the ones writing about and governing Others.

1. **White Supremacist:** Clearly marked white society that preserves, names, and values white superiority.
2. **White Voyeurism:** Wouldn't challenge a white supremacist; desires nonwhiteness because it's interesting, pleasurable; seeks to control the consumption and appropriation of nonwhiteness; fascination with culture (ex: consuming Black culture without the burden of Blackness).
3. **White Privilege:** May critique supremacy, but a deep investment in questions of fairness/equality under the normalization of whiteness and the white rule; sworn goal of "diversity."
4. **White Benefit:** Sympathetic to a set of issues but only privately; won't speak/act in solidarity publicly because benefitting through whiteness in public [...]
5. **White Confessional:** Some exposure of whiteness takes place, but as a way of being accountable to POC after; seek validation from POC.
6. **White Critical:** Take on board critiques of whiteness and invest in exposing/marking the white regime; refuses to be complicit with the regime; whiteness speaking back to whiteness.
7. **White Traitor:** Actively refuses complicity; names what's going on; intention is to subvert white authority and tell the truth at whatever cost; need them to dismantle institutions.
8. **White Abolitionist:** Changing institutions, dismantling whiteness, and not allowing whiteness to reassert itself.