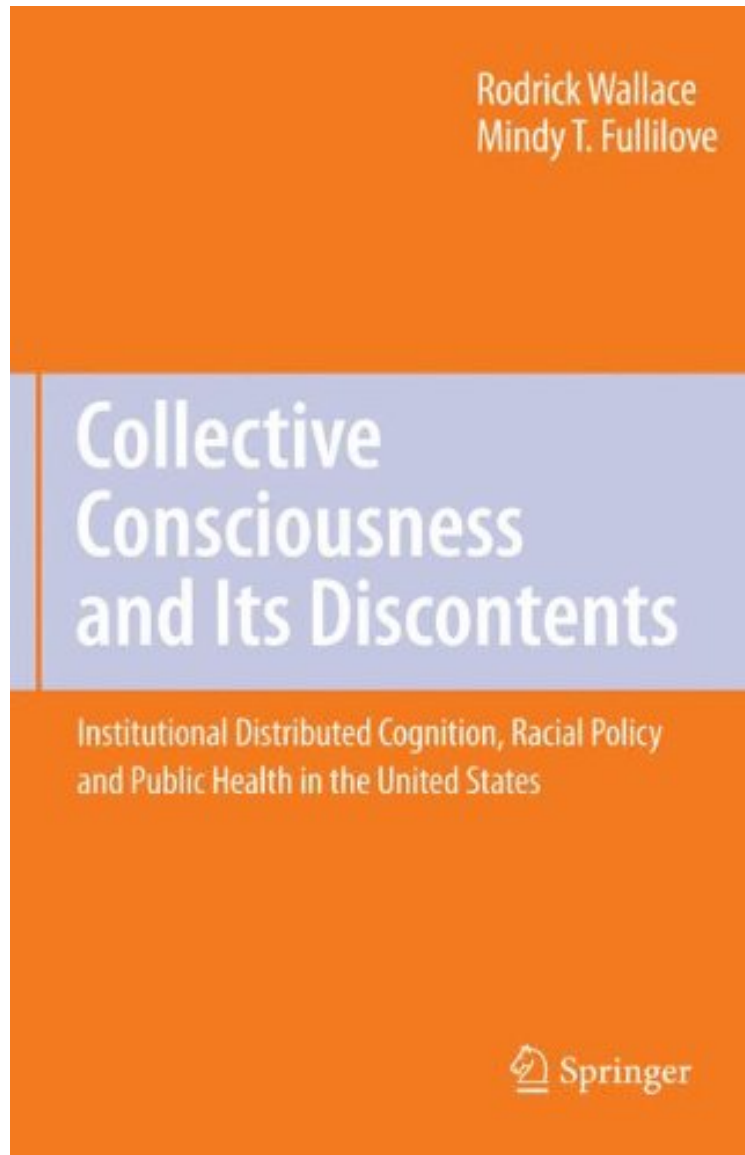


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# Collective Consciousness and Its Discontents:: Institutional distributed cognition, racial policy, and public health in the United States

*Rodrick Wallace, Mindy T. Fullilove*

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before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised *Collective Consciousness and Its Discontents: Institutional distributed cognition, racial policy, and public health in the United States*:

An earlier book by Rodrick Wallace entitled *Consciousness: A Mathematical Treatment of the Global Neuronal Workspace Model*, introduced a formal information-theoretic approach to individual consciousness. This latest book takes a more formal 'groupoid' perspective to its predecessor and generalizes the results presented in that earlier book. It applies a multiple-workspace version of Dr. Wallace's earlier consciousness model to large-scale institutional cognition.

From the reviews: "This book describes the mathematical analysis of collective consciousness, with a focus on the relation between public policy and public health, specifically AIDS and TB. The authors do not indicate who their intended audience is, but researchers and individuals interested in public health and racial policy would be appropriate. presents some very important ideas in public health and racial policy, presenting them in the context of the collective consciousness. The case studies at the end help to bring out the important points." (Gary B Kaniuk, *Psy. Doodys Service*, March, 2008) From the Back Cover This book expands a recent mathematical treatment of the Baars model of individual consciousness to an institutional venue in which multiple Global Workspaces cooperate, communicate, and compete. The result is an expansion of Dretske's necessary conditions communications theory approach to high level cognition, having potential applications ranging from the organizational ecology of the firm to the design and analysis of highly parallel or networked autonomic computing systems. The particular example explored in detail, the failure of AIDS control and treatment in the United States, generalizes distributed cognition approaches to medical error and applies them to larger scale patterns of failure in public health, affecting populations rather than individuals. The book is written as a series of nearly independent chapters, and can be read at markedly different mathematical levels.