

Who Should I Be?

The Effects of Parental Racial
Socialization on Biracial Individuals'
Identities

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December 2, 2015
Senior Comprehensive Research Project
Presentation



Research Question:

1. How does the socialization of the family impact how biracial individuals self-identify?
2. Do heightened racial events influence if biracial individuals change or modify their identity?

Thesis

- Racial socialization has a tremendous impact on biracial individuals in that it promotes cultural pride and prepares and protects biracial children for potential discrimination and challenges regarding their identity.

Social Identity Theory

Tajfel & Turner (1979)

1. Social Identity
 2. Categorization
 3. Social Identification
 4. Social Comparison
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Literature Review

1. Socialization

- Khanna & Johnson (2010)
- Khanna (2011)

2. Parental Racial Socialization

- Hamm (2001)
- Butler Sweets (2011)

3. Maternal Racial Socialization

- Rollins and Hunter (2013)
- Czimadia, Rollins, and Kaneakua (2014)

Methodology

- Data collected was from a survey conducted on SurveyMonkey.com with 34 questions ranging from demographic questions to questions about parental socialization and discrimination.
- Survey was posted on three biracial online forums: Experience Project, Lipstickalley, and Mothering
- Data was collected from October 3, 2015 to October 25, 2015.
- 60 biracial individuals participated in the survey.

Findings

Data from this study shows that overall individuals did not believe that their parents directly influenced their identity. However, parents did in fact directly influence their identity and conversations about discrimination, contact with family members, as well as the racial composition of peers influenced that identity.

Racial Identity by Parents Race

Parental Race	Racial Identity						
	Biracial	Biracial Black	Contingent	Black	Other	White	TOTAL
Mother is Race							
White	12	11	10	0	0	3	36 (31%)
Black	3	2	4	7	0	0	13 (12%)
Other	1	3	1	0	1	0	6 (5%)
Total	16	16	15	7	1	3	*58
Father is Race							
White	3	1	5	0	1	0	13 (12%)
Black	11	14	10	1	2	0	39 (35%)
Other	2	1	0	1	1	0	5(4%)
	16	16	15	2	4	0	*53
TOTAL	32 (29%)	32 (29%)	30 (27%)	9 (8%)	5 (4%)	3 (1%)	111

*Totals do not equal the total amount (n=60 of participants due to omitted answers.

Social Identity by Parents Race

Table 2 Social Identity Among Biracial Individuals by Parents Race											
Parental Race	Respondent's Social Identity										
	Social				Cultural			Physical			Total
	B	BR	W	O	B	BR	W	B	BR	W	
Mother's Race											
White	3	32	1	1	2	37	1	3	27	3	108 (30%)
Black	6	10	1	0	5	9	0	12	10	1	54 (15%)
Other	0	6	0	0	1	5	0	2	4	0	18 (5%)
Father's Race											
White	2	11	2	0	3	10	1	3	10	0	44 (12%)
Black	7	33	0	1	3	37	1	13	27	0	122(34%)
Other	1	4	0	0	1	4	0	1	4	0	15 (4%)
TOTAL	19 (5%)	96 (27%)	4 (1%)	2 (.5%)	15 (4%)	102 (28%)	3 (.08%)	34 (9%)	82 (23%)	4 (1%)	361

Racial Identity by Family Contact

Parental Contact	Social Identity						
	Biracial	Biracial Black	Contingent	Other	Black	White	TOTAL
Mother							
Daily	2	2	2	6	1	0	13 (12%)
Weekly	5	6	3	0	2	0	16 (14%)
Monthly	2	6	6	0	2	0	16 (15%)
Yearly	7	1	3	1	0	1	13 (12%)
None	0	1	1	0	0	0	2 (2%)
Total	16	16	15	7	5	1	60
Father							
Daily	1	0	0	0	1	0	2 (2%)
Weekly	2	2	0	0	0	0	4 (4%)
Monthly	4	3	4	1	1	0	13 (12%)
Yearly	7	7	5	0	1	1	20 (18%)
None	2	4	5	0	2	0	13 (12%)
Total	16	16	14	1	4	1	52
TOTAL	37 (32%)	32 (28%)	29 (26%)	3 (3%)	10 (9%)	3 (3%)	113 (101%)
*Totals do not equal the total amount (n=60) of participants due to omitted answers.							

Discussion

- Racial Socialization
 - Black Mothers vs. White Mothers
- Racial Identification
 - Geographic Location
 - Racial composition of schooling and neighborhood
- Modify Identity