

# Examining the Effects of Racial Socialization on Ethnic-Racial Identity and Racial Attitudes



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## Abstract

- > It is expected that the U.S. population minority will become the majority by 2060 (Bureau, 2017)
- > Given the increased diversity of the U.S. population there is a growing interest in cultural factors that shape an individual's experiences and mentality on racial, ethnic, and cultural diversity.
- > Our current study examined how various ethnic-racial socialization (ERS) message are related to ethnic-racial identity (ERI) and colorblind racial attitudes. We also examined demographic differences in our study variables.
- > Pearson correlations coefficient and Welches T-test were used.
- > Results indicated ERS is a significant predictor of ERI. Specifically, cultural socialization and preparation for bias were significant predictors of ERI and colorblind racial attitudes.

## TERMS

- > **Ethnic Racial Identity (ERI):** Feeling of belonging and affirmation towards an ethnic or racial group that upholds similar beliefs, and cultural or racial heritage
- > **Colorblind Racial Attitudes:** The negligence of the distinction between different races and ethnicities and the dismissal of race and the experiences that concur
- > **Cultural Socialization:** Messages regarding cultural heritage, traditions, customs, ethnic-racial pride, etc.
- > **Preparation for Bias:** Messages given in anticipation of racism and discrimination
- > **Promotion of Mistrust:** Messages on weariness and caution of out-group members

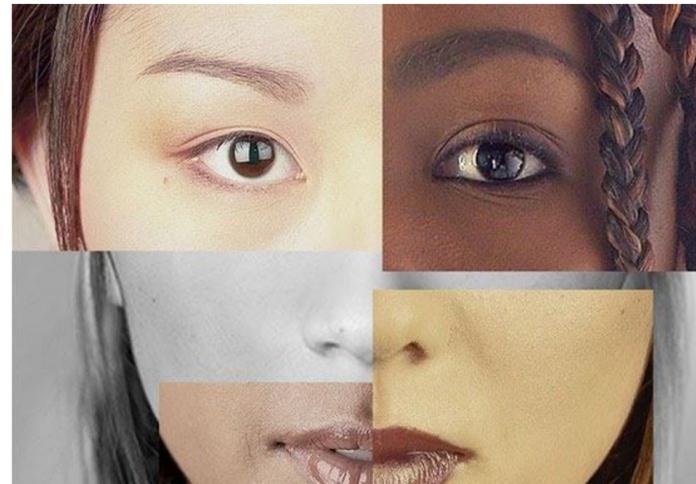


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## Introduction

- > Parents serve as socializing agents by generating the environment and messages that youth utilize to form their understanding of their ERI and racial attitudes towards other out-group members (Priest et al., 2014).
- > By investigating an individual's ERI we also learn how to promote an open positive mentality about racial, ethnic, and cultural diversity (Priest et al., 2014).
- > Prior research has investigated ERS in aspects related to psychological well-being and have focused on one type of socialization messages, but parents tend to convey varies messages.
- > This study investigated how varies socialization messages are correlated to ERI and colorblind racial attitudes.
- > We expected ERI to have a positive correlation to cultural socialization and preparation for bias, and colorblindness to be negatively correlated to preparation for bias and promotion of mistrust messages.

## Methods and Materials

- > Our sample consisted of 1,531 University of Minnesota students. Most of our participants identify as White 75.9%, 14.5% Asian or Asian American, 2.2% Black or African American, 2.4% Hispanic or Latinx, .3% Native American and 3.5% as Multiracial.
- > Data was obtained through a survey using a 20-item Color-Blind Racial Attitudes Scale (Neville et al., 2000), an adapted version of the 16-item Racial Socialization scale (Hughes & Johnson, 2001) and The Multigroup Ethnic Identity Measure (Phinney, 1992). Reliability estimates were .80 or greater.
- > The participants responded to the survey using a Point-Likert Scale (see Table 1 for range)

## Results

- > ERI was positively correlated with cultural socialization, promotion of mistrust and preparation for bias.
- > Males received more preparation for bias messages than female participants.
- > Colorblind racial attitudes were positively correlated with cultural socialization.
- > U.S. born participants received more cultural socialization messages than non-U.S. born
- > No significant association emerged between ERI and colorblind racial attitudes.
- > No significant correlation emerged between promotion of mistrust and cultural socialization, preparation for bias and colorblind racial, ERI and colorblind racial attitudes.

## Correlations Between Variables

Variable	Color blindness	Ethnic-Racial Identity
Color blindness	1	-0.048
Cultural Socialization	0.144**	0.321**
Promotion of Mistrust	0.015	0.138**
Preparation for bias	0.070	0.306***
Ethnic-Racial Identity	-0.048	1

\*\*\*. Correlation is significant at the .01 level (2-tailed).

\*. Correlation is significant at the .05 level (2-tailed).

## Discussion and Future Studies

- > Our findings indicate that the messages parents convey to their children are influenced by different demographic variables and that ERS messages mediate the presences of colorblindness.
- > This study furthers our understanding of ERS parental practices. We specifically hope our findings will inform parenting and educational practices center ways to promote positive ERI and racial consciousness.
- > Further studies should examine findings within an adult or younger sample, given that ERS can influence ERI and racial attitudes throughout an individual's whole life (Stepney et al., 2015).
- > Further research should also explore the effects that peer ERS has on ERI, as research has found they play an influencing role in the formation of ERI, but there is limited research on the subject (Nelson et al., 2018).