

Parental Racial Socialization for Multiracial Children

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Background

Experiences of Multiracial Children:

5% of U.S. infants were multiracial in 1980, this increased to 14% in 2015.¹

Multiracial individuals are thriving but encounter unique challenges.²⁻³

Identity Denial: telling a multiracial individual that they cannot claim a specific racial identity.⁴

Racial Socialization:

how parents transmit information and values about race and ethnicity to their children.⁵

Gap:

The current racial socialization measures are not designed to understand how parents of multiracial children teach their children about race.

- **Multiracial Racial Socialization:** includes teaching children about their racial heritage and history,⁵ creating a multiracial family identity,⁶ talking openly about race or rarely discussing race,⁷ and preparing children for experiences with racial discrimination.⁸

Research Question:

How do the racial socialization strategies used by parents of multiracial children influence the children's experiences and sense of pride in their multiracial identity?



Methods

Survey-based study

Participants:

Parents of at least one Multiracial child over the age of 3

Measures:

Multiracial Stigma Awareness

- "Multiracial people encounter unique racial discrimination"

Parenting Self-Efficacy⁹ (modified)

- "In general, I feel like I am a capable parent"

Racial Socialization¹⁰ (modified)

- "I teach my child that it is important to know about their multiple ethnic/cultural backgrounds"

Private Regard for the Child¹¹ (modified)

- "I think my child feels good about being multiracial"

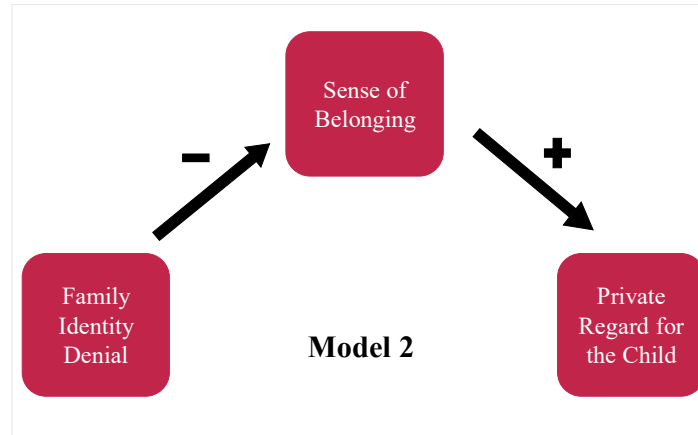
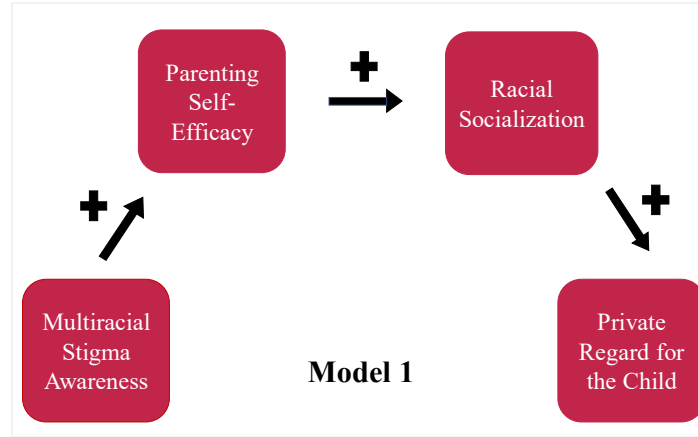
Family Identity Denial⁴ (modified)

- "How often do you think your family members tell your child they do not have the right to identify in a certain way"

Sense of Belonging

- "My child feels accepted by my family members"

Proposed Results



Multiracial American actress Zendaya with her parents.

Analysis Plan

1. Test the correlations between the variables:

- Multiracial Stigma Awareness → Parenting Self-Efficacy
- Parenting Self-Efficacy → Racial Socialization
- Racial Socialization → Private Regard for the Child
- Identity Denial → Sense of Belonging
- Sense of Belonging → Private Regard for the Child

2. Receive training in path analyses to test these relationships simultaneously.



Interpretations

- **If Model 1 supported:** teaching parents of multiracial children about the stigma surrounding multiracial identities may help parents feel more capable of teaching their multiracial children about race; this will lead these parents to use more racial socialization processes specific to multiracial children and they will perceive themselves as helping their children develop a sense of pride in their multiracial identity.
- **If Model 2 supported:** teaching parents of multiracial children that when their family members engage in identity denial with their children, they may be weakening their children's sense of belonging and decreasing their children's chance of developing a sense of pride in their multiracial identity.

Future Directions

Future studies will examine the relationships between parents/caregiver's racial socialization of multiracial children alongside multiracial children's self-reported identity denial and private regard.

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