

AMBIGUOUS

Which factors in their immediate environment have the greatest influence on mixed-race youth's identity negotiation?

LITERATURE REVIEW

- Mixed-race youth (MRY) struggle to form a secure identity due to their inability to claim both of their racial heritages (Mckie, 2018).
- A multitude of factors within the immediate environment influence MRY's ability to express their full identity (Grillo et al., 2022).
- Compared to their single race peers, MRY are more likely to negotiate parts of their identity to seek social acceptance in their immediate social environment (Wright et al., 2022).
- Due to their inability to be authentic, MRY experience internal oppression resulting in feelings of shame, disloyalty, frustration and isolation (Crawford & Alaggia, 2008).

POETIC INQUIRY

- Poetic inquiry is an arts-based research method which utilizes poetry in data collection, data analysis and research dissemination.
- Poetry within research provides a richer and evocative insight into the lived experience of individuals.
- Each participant was asked to create three poems which depicts the factors that influence them to negotiate parts of their identity at the individual, interpersonal and community level.
- During co-analysis between the participant and the researcher, each participant was asked to pull stanzas from their poems to create one poem which represented the factors that influenced their identity negotiation at all levels.

Six Poem Creation → Collaboration in Analysis → Co-creation of two poems

DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

- The snowball sampling technique was used to recruit participants

Participant	Age	Gender	Racial Identification
Mila	23	Female	Half White/Half Asian
Bluey	26	Female	Half White/Half Chinese

Under Whose Influence

What makes me Japanese
I act Canadian
Am I allowed to be all of those
How do I be both
Hearing that other people have already labeled half of me
Hearing that others have labels
Part of me wished I never learned about it
I'm pretty sure I talk whiter than you
But why am I even defending my whiteness
But in all the white
Where the did the yellow go
But then I hated that I was Asian
And all I could think about was how much I hated you
And how much I hated that you were Asian
Maybe if my mom was white
Maybe I am the one that is racist
-Mila, 23

Pending Identity

I am my father's last name
I am my father's privilege and ignorance
I am my mother's shame
I am my mother's displaced identity and fear
I am my own amalgamation of complexity
I am only sought after for identifying fractured identities within
lifeless bodies
My father has the choice to fight or protect
My mother can either succumb or hide
My mother speaks in a language, where my humiliation hides
I have always been the failed inheritance of my mother's native tongue
I am only fluent in apologies for never being enough
I am a culmination of microaggressions
I balance on a fault line
I am scared to find myself
-Bluey, 26

FINDINGS

- Factors that influenced participants' negotiations of their identities:
 - *Parental relationships*
 - *Racial makeup of their immediate environment*
 - *Awareness of discrimination towards their non-white heritage*
 - *Cultural disconnection*
 - *The privilege associated with being white passing*

DISCUSSION

- White passing MRY are unable to claim their non-white identity due to the privilege they hold. As a result, many have feelings of guilt due to their disconnection with their non-white racial heritage.
- MRY's negative feelings towards their parental figures impacts their perception of their racial heritage. This may lead to an unwillingness to connect to both parts of their racial identity.
- The pressure to blend both racial heritages into their identity causes MRY to feel a sense of inadequacy.

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Scan me for more information

