

DEVELOPMENT OF THE PORTRAYAL OF HISTORICAL EVENTS AND PERCEIVED DISCRIMINATION TOWARDS RACIALLY AMBIGUOUS INDIVIDUALS STUDY

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Public and scientific interest in the epistemology of racial perception, prejudice, and discrimination are on the rise. Research on racial perception is increasingly vital as the concepts of diversity and intersectionality become more prominent throughout the nation. This raises the question of not only racially prototypical individuals' mistreatment, but also of those who may be perceived and self-identify as racially ambiguous. It is possible that aside from different social factors throughout individuals' development, the acknowledgement of inequality or lack thereof in the portrayal of historical race-related events may influence the way in which people perceive discrimination and prejudice. Indeed, previous research has found that individuals with a higher knowledge of historical events concerning past discrimination are more aware of current acts of discrimination (Nelson, Adams, & Salter, 2012). Beyond historical awareness, individuals' awareness of discrimination may be influenced by the way in which these historical events are presented, specifically within educational settings. In this study, we seek to explore the ways in which individuals perceive the discrimination of those who are racially ambiguous. Moreover, we are interested in the impact that the different portrayals of historical events, relating to the social inequality encountered by different social groups, may have on the attitudes developed towards discrimination.

It is expected that the findings of this research can serve as a catalyst for further exploration within the Department of Psychology and the research field of intergroup relations, and expand our knowledge of factors that influence perceptions of discrimination. It is often believed that education serves a prominent role with respect to the progress made within social inequality, and we strive for this research to ultimately contribute to the design and implementation of different educational techniques and tools as we strive to reach potential progress towards equality.