THE MULTIRACIAL STUDENT COMMUNITY

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MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS

THE INVISIBLE IDENTITY SERIES

This series focuses on identities that exist in the UMass Lowell community. This monthly workshop will explore different invisible identities and provide information, education and local resources.

SEPT. 20TH | OCT. 18TH | NOV. 15TH
The transgender student community | The Multiracial student community | Students who identify as homeless
4PM-6PM @ CRC CONFERENCE ROOM

Sponsored by the Office of Multicultural Affairs. For more events check: umasslowell.edu/multicultural-affairs
WHAT DO YOU THINK WHEN YOU HEAR “MULTIRACIAL”?
IDENTIFY YOURSELF

What factors contributed to your identity choice?
VIDEO

NYTimes.com - Being Multiracial in America

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=21H9IA6MLHM
WHAT ARE YOU?

- Multiracial
- Biracial
- Mulatto/ Half Caste
- Blaxican
- Mixed Race
- Hapa
- Mestizo

- Eurasian
- Blasian/ Afro-Asian
- Interracial
- Passing
- Creole
- Blackenese
JUMPING ON THE “MULTIRACIAL BANDWAGON”

Why multiracial? Why don’t you pick one?

- People of mixed races often have trouble moving between racial categories, or are forced to define themselves as one race to fit into at least one box for forms or applications that REQUIRE a choice.
HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

• One drop rule

• Loving v. Virginia - 1967
  • Interracial marriage state ban
  • Interracial baby boom - early 70’s

Mildred & Richard Loving
DATA AT-A-GLANCE

• 2000 Census- 6.8 million, 2 or more races
• 2010 Census- 9 million, 2 or more races
  • Interracial couples: among opposite sex married couples, 1 in 10 are interracial
  • Interracial unmarried partner households increased from 5.5 million to 7.7 million

Number of Races Selected:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of Races</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Percent of Total</th>
<th>Percent of Multiracial</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Two Races</td>
<td>6,368,075</td>
<td>2.26%</td>
<td>93.29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Three Races</td>
<td>410,285</td>
<td>0.15%</td>
<td>6.01%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Four Races</td>
<td>38,408</td>
<td>0.01%</td>
<td>0.56%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Five Races</td>
<td>8,637</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
<td>0.13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Six Races</td>
<td>823</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
<td>0.01%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
DATA COLLECTION IN COLLEGES

- MAVIN Foundation report found that the overwhelming majority of schools (73%) do not offer multiracial students the ability to accurately identify their heritage.
- Only nine schools (3%) met federal standards and encoded that data faithfully.
- Today, in cities like Seattle, Sacramento and San Antonio, 1 in 6 babies born is multiracial. And yet, despite this national mixed race baby boom, few people are aware of the unique needs of this rapidly growing community.
IDENTITY AND TRENDS

Maria Root (2003) outlined five types of identity resolutions for multiracial persons:

1. Accept the monoracial identity society assigns
2. Actively choose a monoracial identity
3. Define self as biracial or multiracial
4. Develop a “new race” identity
5. Symbolic race
5 PATTERNS OF RACIAL
IDENTITY DEVELOPMENT

Kristen Renn (2000) Five patterns of racial identity development:

• Monoracial identity
• Multiple monoracial, situational identities
• Multiracial identity
• Extraracial identity (rejecting all categories)
• Situational
INTERSECTIONALITY:

• Explores aspects of multiple dimensions of identity through power dynamics, inequality and larger social structures
  • Does not assume that one identity takes precedence over another
  • Provides a lens to explore many aspects of mixed student identity

• Intersectionality considers that individuals can inhabit both an oppressed and privileged identity
COMMON THEMES

• Living Life “In the Middle”
• Confusing Childhood - Dominant and Subordinate group memberships - White & (insert non white race).
• Feeling like the only one
• Ambiguity
• Pride
IN GROUPS:
INCLUSION IDEAS ON CAMPUS FOR MULTIRACIAL STUDENTS
RESOURCES

• MAVIN Foundation
• Mixed Race Center
• FMMI- Factor Model of Multiracial Identity
• Book - Multiracial Child Resource Book: Living Complex Identities

• http://www.ameasite.org/about.asp
• http://www.robynochss.com/resources/Multiracial.html
REFERENCES


Ridder, C. (2010). *Searching for self and others: Black-White racial identity exploration through student organizations*. The University of Texas at Austin, Austin, Texas.


Special Thanks: CeCe Ridder, Director of Student Life, McCombs School of Business – University of Texas at Austin