

Landing page

Developing Guidelines for Collecting and Reporting Data About Race

Speaker:

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Collaborators:

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Diversity & Inclusion:

This project has been collectively developed by researchers from diverse backgrounds and aims to serve diverse populations and minorities by making questionnaires more racially inclusive and ethically sound. This session will improve psychological science in three fundamental ways:

- 1. by developing ethically responsible practices to collect and report data about race that value participants' racial identities, their complexity and fluidity over time, as well as respect participants' well-being;**
- 2. by developing practices to collect valid data about participants' racial identities, that are not too complex to code and compile across studies;**
- 3. by developing practices to collect and report data that do not promote an essentialist view of race as something objectively determined.**

Prerequisites:

This session is appropriate for any researcher that collects demographic information about race and ethnicity, as well as racial and/or ethnic minorities as they can provide insightful inputs about the topic

End Product:

- 1. Attendees will learn how the commonly used practices for collecting and reporting data about participants' race can fail to value participants' racial identities, harm their well-being, and reinforce the view that race categories are fixed and immutable.**
- 2. Attendees will collectively help generate guidelines for new research practices that avoid or minimize these problems. We aim to submit these guidelines to be included in future research manuals and on a website.**

Contact information

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Session Takeaways/Objectives (for all):

1. Attendees will learn the ethical and methodological shortcomings deriving from commonly used practices (especially those based on US race taxonomies) for collecting and reporting data about participants' race.

Specifically, how these practices can:

- a. affect the validity and consistency of the data;
- b. fail to value participants' racial identities, harming their well-being;
- c. reinforce the view that race categories are fixed and immutable

2. Attendees will collectively help generate guidelines for improved research practices that avoid or minimize these problems. We are planning to submit these guidelines to APA for consideration (e.g., to be incorporated to the upcoming edition of the APA publication manual) and to create a website.

Session takeaways (for us/team)

1. Learn about different research contexts, different research topics, different disciplines/fields, different countries and how all of the above translate into different practices + pros/cons

Session Plan

Interactive presentation + Q&A (10 mins)

Roundtable discussion (30 mins)

Discussion points (consider 5-8 mins for each point):

1. How to balance methodological feasibility (e.g., avoid free-format or complex questions) with representation?
2. How to balance specificity (i.e., reporting identities in detail) with synthesis/clarity (e.g., word count limitations) when reporting the data?
3. How to ensure research transparency and reproducibility?

Group debrief (2 mins)

- Q&A?
- Share survey

See specific discussion points / handouts below

HANDOUTS

Disclaimer

We understand that the topics discussed in this roundtable are sensitive and may elicit emotional stress. We apologise in advance and are committed to do our best to respect each and everyone's identity and expect everyone to do the same.

Please notify us, if anything upsets you and let us know if there is anything that we could have done better.

This is a feedback survey where you can contact us and share your thoughts:

https://uwartsandsciences.sjc1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6ffvqLZepa3Mdr8

Core Goal

Balance:

- **Participants' need for representation**
- **Researcher's need for methodological feasibility (e.g., easy coding) + study reproducibility (data consistency, comparability)**
- **Reports/publications' need for clarity + synthesis**

Pre-task:

- **Think about the way(s) you provide and/or are typically asked about data about your racial and ethnic identities**
- **Think about the way you and/or your colleagues collect and report data about race and ethnicity**
- **Think about the way data about race and ethnicity is reported by others**
- **How can we meet the core goal?**

We are interested in your own input, so please think about:

- 1. Your own racial and ethnic identities;**
- 2. Your country of origin;**
- 3. Your country of residence or the country/ies where you conduct research;**
- 4. Your discipline(s) or area(s) or background(s) if applicable;**
- 5. Your sector (are you conducting academic research? Do you work in the industry?);**
- 6. Your research outcomes (academic papers? Non-academic papers? Research reports? Online content?);**
- 7. Your other identities (linguistic, cultural, national, gender, ...)**
- 8. Anything else...?**

Discussion points

Consider 3-5 mins for each discussion point and prepare a list of bullet points of takeaways

1. How to balance methodological feasibility (e.g., avoid free-format or complex questions) with representation?

Idea: Include flexible questions AND open-ended question

- issue: giving participants false impressions [ask in detail but then disregard]
- issue: what format is flexible enough? [check-all that apply, disaggregated descriptors, scales, sub-categories?]
- issue: more confusion?

2. How to balance specificity (i.e., reporting identities in detail) with synthesis/clarity (e.g., word count limitations) when reporting the data?

Idea: go into as much detail as is needed, subjective decision based on the race-relevance of the research topic

Idea: add accuracy level

- issue: reporting data becomes complex [wording, tables, graphs, supplements?]

3. How to ensure research transparency and reproducibility?

Idea: Always report how the data was collected

- issue: reporting increases word count [supplements?]

Some Useful Examples

Question phrasing example:

“We understand that this list of descriptors is not comprehensive, so we still included an option for you to enter your own descriptor(s).”

Additional accuracy question example:

“Considering the descriptors that you have selected:

How accurately does [participants' selection, i.e., "Black, Pacific Islander"] capture your racial and ethnic identities?"

(1) Not accurately at all – (5) very accurately

Two-step question example:

What term(s) do you use to describe your racial/ethnic identity? (open-ended response)

[free response]

Now, below are some commonly used racial and ethnic descriptors.

We want you to select **all** descriptors that are relevant to your ethnic and racial identities. For example, you may select "Alaskan" and "Native".

We understand that this list of descriptors is not comprehensive, so we still included an option for you to enter your own descriptor(s).

You may select all that apply and/or write-in your own choice.

- ☐ Alaskan
- ☐ African
- ☐ American
- ☐ Asian
- ☐ Black
- ☐ Hawaiian
- ☐ Hispanic
- ☐ Indian
- ☐ Indigenous
- ☐ Native
- ☐ Latin[e]
- ☐ Middle Eastern
- ☐ Multiracial
- ☐ Multiethnic
- ☐ Pacific Islander
- ☐ White
- ☐ Still prefer to self-describe: _____

Report the data example:

"Participants were given an option to describe their racial and ethnic identities. Their responses are illustrated in Supplements (Section xx). When asked more specifically to select all racial and ethnic descriptors that are relevant to their racial and ethnic identities among a list of commonly used ones (see Supplements, table xx), X% indicated "Alaskan" alone or in combination, Y% indicated "African" alone or in combination... XX% of the sample indicated more than one response option."

Report the data example with accuracy:

"Participants were given an option to describe their racial and ethnic identities (XX% of the sample indicated more than one response option). Their responses are illustrated in Supplements (Section xx). When asked more specifically to select all racial and ethnic descriptors that are relevant to their racial and ethnic identities among a list of commonly used ones (see Supplements, table xx) the sample breakdown was: X% (Accuracy $M = y$, $SD = z$) Alaskan alone or in combination, Y% (Accuracy $M = y$, $SD = z$) African alone or in combination,...

Table or graph example:

Racial / ethnic descriptors	% of participants [alone or in combination]	Accuracy [M, SD]
Alaskan	X	($M = y$, $SD = z$)
African	Y	($M = y$, $SD = z$)
...	...	...

Scroll down for session plan and discussion points

Useful Resources [ADD YOUR OWN :)]

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<https://www.census.gov/topics/population/race/about.html#:~:text=OMB%20requires%20five%20minimum%20categories,Hawaiian%20or%20Other%20Pacific%20Islander>

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Sanchez, D. T., Shih, M., & Garcia, J. A. (2009). Juggling multiple racial identities: Malleable racial identification and psychological well-being. *Cultural Diversity & Ethnic Minority Psychology*, 15, 243–254.

Singh, L., Barokova, M. D., Baumgartner, H. A., Lopera-Perez, D. C., Omane, P. O., Sheskin, M., Yuen, F. L., Wu, Y., Alcock, K. J., Altmann, E. C., Bazhydai, M., Carstensen, A., Chan, K. C. J., Chuan-Peng, H., Dal Ben, R., Franchin, L., Kosie, J. E., Lew-Williams, C., Okocha, A., . . . Frank, M. C. (2024). A unified approach to demographic data collection for research with young children across diverse cultures. *Developmental Psychology*, 60(2), 211–227. <https://doi.org/10.1037/dev0001623>

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Notes from Roudtables [ADD YOUR OWN :)]

Ideas:

- advocate for a more comprehensive description of the sample > use all of the words needed!
- work on research design > mixed-method analysis / framework
- use accuracy/emotion scores [report as: xx% of the participants felt that the categories accurately described them, while yy% felt that the categories did not describe their racial identity well]
- value representation vs power > make a statement about it
- advocate for “local” studies/findings > describe your results within that context
- always include “prefer not to disclose”
- even if racial taxonomies differ between country/region, we could try to offer *some* standardization that could allow data comparison across country/regional lines. For example, report the top X racial/ethnic groups in any given region.
- large collaborations between different labs across borders can help increase power (for populations that typically are too small to be included in analyses)
- do we *actually* want a representative sample of the population (then we risk just perpetuating the disparities and underrepresentation already in the population, e.g., if there are a super small number of Indigenous people in the population, do we really want to only sample a few in our study)?

- Instead, consider sampling an equal proportion of your different population groups (e.g., always trying to sample 20% White, 20% Indigenous, 20% Black, etc.).
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[add your own ideas]...