EXPLORING RACIALLY BIASED INCIDENTS ON CAMPUS IN A “POSTRACIAL” ERA

MARC JOHNSTON, PHD
OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
@MarcPJohnston

GINA GARCIA, PHD
UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH
@GinaAnnGarcia

March 31, 2014  ACPA Convention  Indianapolis, IN

OVERVIEW OF SESSION

• Introductions
• Considering current contexts
• Overview of racially biased incidents
• Presentation of typology
• Cases
• Large group discussion
WHAT BROUGHT US TOGETHER TODAY?

CONSIDERING CURRENT CONTEXTS

Media Influences on Postracial Beliefs
A POST-RACIAL ERA?

• The end of racism and/or end of racial differences?
• Popular claims somewhat detached from post-race theory (e.g., Hollinger, 2011)
  • Aversion to essentialism
  • Identity performed, not possessed
  • Post-ethnic alternatives
• “Postracial era” still plagued by colorblind racist ideology (Bonilla-Silva, 2010)
  • Belief that color/race does not bear on lived experiences
  • Assertion of a meritocratic playing field w/ equal opportunity
  • Cultural racism
INCREASE OF RACIALLY BIASED INCIDENTS IN “POST-RACIAL” ERA

  - Four NC State University students admit to writing “Let’s shoot the [N-word] in the head” in a tunnel designated for free speech
  - University of Alabama professor says a poster of the first family was first ripped off her door and then a replacement was defaced with death threat and racial slur
  - University of California, San Diego (2010) Compton Cookout
  - Santa Clara University (2007) South of the Border
  - Tarleton State University (2007) MLK Party
  - Dartmouth University (2006) Cowboys and Indians
CAMPUS CLIMATE FOR DIVERSITY

Government/Policy Context  

Historical Legacy of Inclusion/Exclusion  

Structural Diversity (The Numbers)  

Psychological Climate (Perceptions)  

Behavioral Dimension (Interactions and Practices)  

Sociohistorical Context  

MEDIA?

(Hurtado, Milem, Clayton-Pedersen, & Allen, 1999)

CLARIFYING TERMINOLOGY: WHAT IS A RACIALLY BIASED INCIDENT?

• Any conscious action in which a person or a group of people “do race,” represent racial stereotypes, or mock any racial or ethnic group. Actions may be targeted directly at an individual person/group of people (interpersonal) or indirectly at a targeted group (intergroup). (Modified from Garcia, Johnston, Garibay, Herrera, & Giraldo, 2011, p. 6)

• Environmental microaggressions (macro-level) include racial assaults, insults, and invalidations which are manifested on systemic and environmental levels (Sue et al., 2007, p. 278)

• Manifestations of the covert racism that is embedded within institutional structures and practices (Bonilla-Silva, 2001)
OUR STUDY

• Title: Examining Campus Racial Incidents and their Influence on Students’ Racial Views

• Purpose: To examine the impact of campus racial incidents on college students’ post-racial views

• Research Questions:
  • In what ways do students’ post-racial views change while in college, and is there a difference by race/ethnicity?
  • What role, if any, do campus racial incidents have on changes in students’ post-racial views over four years, controlling for key demographic variables and pre-college experiences?

OUR STUDY

• Post-racial views:
  • Racial discrimination is no longer a major problem in America
  • Colleges should prohibit racist/sexist speech on campus
  • Affirmative action in college admissions should be abolished

• Perceptions of racial climate:
  • There is a lot of racial tension on this campus

• Dataset:
  • Cooperative Research Institute Program (CIRP)
  • College Senor Survey (CSS) 2009
  • Freshman Survey (FS) 2005
**OUR METHODS**

**SYSTEMATIC REVIEW**
- Identifying racially biased incidents by media coverage
- Lexis-Nexis search engine
- Advanced search for institutions in dataset and key words indicating racially biased incidents (i.e., blackface, noose, racially themed party)
- Dates: 8/01/2005-5/01/2009

**CODING / ANALYZING**
- Total number of incidents
- Type of incident
- Institutional response
- Targeted group
- Media exposure

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**TOWARD A TYPOLOGY**

OF RACIALLY BIASED INCIDENTS
### TYPES OF RACIAL INCIDENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Incident Type</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Police Brutality/Profiling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assault/Fighting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harassment/Intimidation/Verbal Slurs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graffiti/Vandalism</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### TYPES OF RACIAL INCIDENTS (CONT.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Incident Type</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Racially Themed Parties</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Socio-historical Symbols (e.g., noose)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Offensive Clothing/Costumes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flyers/Other Media</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**EXAMPLES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Incident</th>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Example</th>
<th>Media Coverage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Harassment/Intimidation/Racial Slurs</td>
<td>Interpersonal</td>
<td>Susquehanna University, August 2008, two separate instances within a week of each other in which people in a car shouted racial slurs at students</td>
<td>1 campus newspaper article</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Socio-historical Symbols</td>
<td>Intergroup</td>
<td>Baylor University, Nov 2008, a thin white rope tied to a loop at the end is found hanging outside a campus building; Obama election signs are found burned; a group of White and Black students get into an argument after White students allegedly threaten the Black students; incidents outrage Black advocacy groups</td>
<td>10+ campus and national newspaper articles</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**RACIALLY BIASED INCIDENTS**

![Graph showing the number of racially biased incidents from 2005 to 2009]
### TYPOLOGY?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Incident</th>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Targeted Group</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
<th>Media Coverage</th>
<th>Microaggression</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Police Brutality/Profiling</td>
<td>Interpersonal</td>
<td>Blacks</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Low (2)</td>
<td>Assault</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assault/Fighting</td>
<td>Interpersonal</td>
<td>Muslims</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Low (6)</td>
<td>Assault</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harassment/Intimidation/Verbal Racial Slurs</td>
<td>Interpersonal</td>
<td>Blacks, Asians</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>Low (9)</td>
<td>Assault</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Jewish</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Low (5)</td>
<td>Insult</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graffiti/Vandalism</td>
<td>Intergroup</td>
<td>Jewish/Latinas/os</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Low (1)</td>
<td>Insult</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Socio-historical Symbols</td>
<td>Intergroup</td>
<td>Blacks</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Low (1)</td>
<td>Invalidation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Racially Themed Parties</td>
<td>Intergroup</td>
<td>Whites; Latinos/os; American Indians; Blacks</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Low (2)</td>
<td>Invalidation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Offensive Clothing/Costume</td>
<td>Intergroup</td>
<td>Blacks</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Low (2)</td>
<td>Invalidation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flyers/Other Media</td>
<td>Intergroup</td>
<td>Blacks, American Indians</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Low (1); Med (1); High (1)</td>
<td>Insult</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Racial Incidents

- **Interpersonal**
  - Police Brutality
  - Assault/Fighting
  - Harassment/Intimidation/Verbal Racial Slurs

- **Intergroup**
  - Racially Themed Parties
  - Graffiti
  - Socio-historical Symbols
  - Offensive Clothing
  - Flyers/Media
RACIAL MICROAGGRESSIONS

- Racial microaggressions: brief and commonplace daily verbal, behavioral, or environmental indignities, whether intentional of unintentional, that communicate hostile, derogatory, or negative racial slights and insults towards people of color (Sue et al., 2007, p. 271)
  - MICROINSULT (often unconscious): Behavioral or verbal remarks or comments that convey rudeness, insensitivity, and demean a person's racial heritage or identity
  - MICROASSAULT (often conscious): Explicit racial derogations characterized primarily by a violent verbal or nonverbal attack meant to hurt the intended victim through name-calling, avoidant behavior or purposeful discriminatory actions
  - MICROINVALIDATION (often unconscious): Verbal comments or behaviors that exclude, negate, or nullify the psychological thoughts, feelings, or experiential reality of a person of color

Racial Incidents

- Microassaults
  - Police Brutality
  - Assault/Fighting
  - Harassment/Intimidation/Racial Slurs
- Microinsults
  - Graffiti/Vandalism
  - Socio-historical Symbols
- Microinvalidations
  - Racially Themed Parties
  - Offensive Clothing
  - Flyers/Media
HOW CAN YOU USE THIS ON YOUR CAMPUS?

CASE 1: “MLK BLACK PARTY” AT ASU

Video clip retrieved from:
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ynrdrK9f7L4
## Usefulness of the Typology?

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<td>Intergroup</td>
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<td>Intergroup</td>
<td>Insult</td>
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### Case 2: Offensive Flyers Targeting Asian American Studies at UCLA & USC

Video clip retrieved from: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l3Be2TYxLeM
# REFERENCES


