

Interdisciplinary Insights for Investigating the Intersection of Race/Color and Social Outcomes among Diverse Hispanic Communities: Implications for Statistical Measurements and Analysis

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Any views expressed on the statistical and methodological issues in this presentation are those of the authors and not necessarily those of the U.S. Census Bureau, the universities or other institutions with which the authors are associated.

If you don't know where you are going, any road will do.

If you don't know what you need to measure, any question will do.

Properties of Social Statistics

- Statistics are gathered to aid in making decisions.
- Useful statistics must necessarily group together people that are alike in some ways and different in other ways
- Group definitions and boundaries are always somewhat arbitrary and can change meaning over time.

Useful social, or at least statistical, constructs of race and ethnicity would have three properties:

- (1) be recognized by society and the individual;
- (2) categorize individuals into the same groups over a long period of time;
- (3) be predictive of social and economic opportunity

Humes & Hogan 2009

Race ≠ Ethnicity ≠ Origin

- Racial identity rests on the experience of shared social relations rather than on unitary shared subjective characteristics
- Recent understandings of the racialization of identity tend to distinguish race and ethnicity when physical characteristics, especially skin color are a principal factor in identity formation

Zuberi 2001

2018 “End-to-End Test” Questions

- Preserves the distinction between “race” and Hispanic ethnicity.
- Includes a few important changes.

8. Is Person 1 of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin?

Mark one or more boxes **AND** print origins.

- No, not of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin
- Yes, Mexican, Mexican Am., Chicano
- Yes, Puerto Rican
- Yes, Cuban
- Yes, another Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin – *Print, for example, Salvadoran, Dominican, Colombian, Guatemalan, Spaniard, Ecuadorian, etc.* ↘

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Race and Color

“The problem of the twentieth [twenty-first century] is the problem of the color line.” –W.E.B. Dubios

Race refers to biologically inherited superficial physical characteristics perceived to be important by society.

How people are perceived may differ
from how they self-identify.

How people are perceived may differ by context.

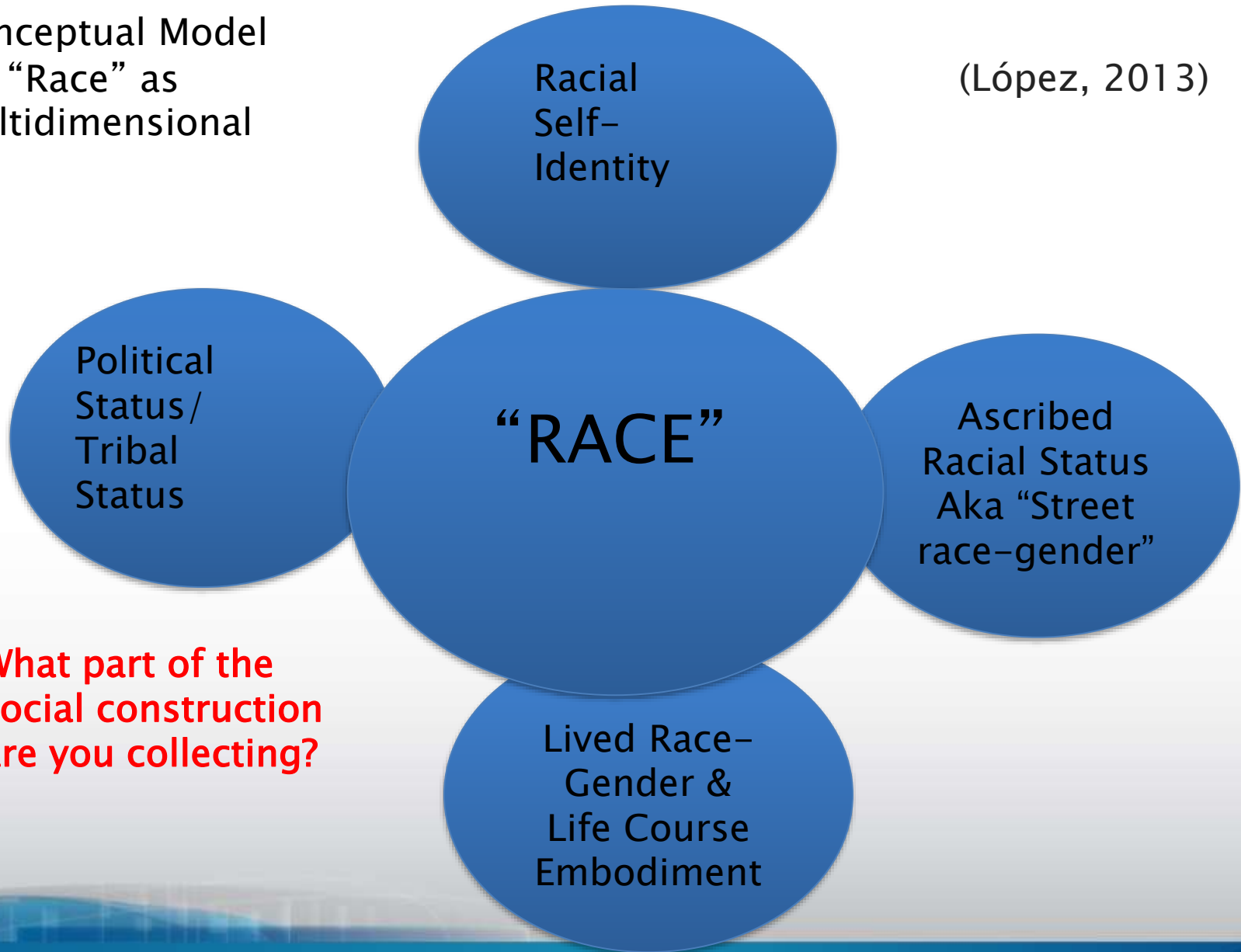
Self-Identification vs “Street Race”

- How do you see yourself?
- If you were walking down the street, what race do you think other Americans who do not know you personally would assume you were based on what you look like?

López et al, 2017

Conceptual Model for “Race” as Multidimensional

(López, 2013)



**What part of the
social construction
are you collecting?**

Race in Hispanic Cultures

Evidence on social inequalities shows an enduring color line in Latin America & Caribbean based on color (white, brown, black)

Telles, 2014; Sue 2014

Correlates of Race and Ethnic Identification

- Generational Status
- English Language Proficiency
- National Origin Ethnicity
- Ancestry

RACE/COLOR AND SOCIAL OUTCOMES

- Voting Rights
- Fair Housing
- Education
- Employment
- Poverty and Wealth
- Health

Voting Rights

There is evidence some poll workers rely on visual cues about a person's perceived race in deciding whether to accept or reject valid identification or provide information about provisional ballots

Tucker 2006

Fair Housing

In tests, “Visible Minorities” were told that there were no more apartments available or were shown significantly less apartments.

Turner et al, 2013

Education

Within Hispanic Groups, those identifying as White alone report higher education than those identifying as some other race alone.

Hogan, 2017

Less than High School

	White Alone	SOR Alone
US Born	55.0	60.0
Mexican	57.3	61.4
Puerto Rican	45.4	50.6
Cuban	44.6	44.4
DOMINICAN	60.7	64.6
HONDURAN	73.5	78.6
NICARAGUAN	59.1	58.8
PANAMANIAN	48.7	48.8
SALVADORAN	72.2	70.2
GUATEMALAN	72.5	74.5
COLOMBIAN	55.5	53.3
ECUADORIAN	59.5	62.8
PERUVIAN	61.4	62.3
So So American	49.5	46.0
Spain/Spanish	32.2	38.2
Other Nations	54.6	54.0
Other Groups	57.7	59.7
Generic Latino	48.3	53.8

Employment

Latino national origin groups that have the highest number of people identifying their race as White in the 2010 Census had the higher wages compared to those not identifying as White

Saenz and Morales (2015)

Poverty and Wealth

Within Hispanic Groups, those identifying as White alone report lower poverty than those identifying as some other race alone.

Hogan 2017

Poverty

	White Alone	SOR Alone
Total	25	28
Mexican	27	30
Puerto Rican	19	20
Cuban	20	26
DOMINICAN	28	25
HONDURAN	35	40
NICARAGUAN	30	25
PANAMANIAN	18	21
SALVADORAN	37	37
GUATEMALAN	31	36
COLOMBIAN	24	26
ECUADORIAN	21	28
PERUVIAN	21	29
So So American	20	23
Spain/Spanish	16	21
Other Nations	20	27
Other Groups	20	27
Generic Latino	22	28

NEEDED RESEARCH

(for 2030)

- Deeper analysis of race responses by Hispanics of different Hispanic response groups.
- Understanding detailed write-ins on Race Question.
- Conduct focus groups on meaningful race and color concepts
- Use data to construct meaningful response options for other race(s).

SELF IDENTIFICATION AND SELF REPORTING

Official OMB Race Categories	Culturally Relevant Concepts
White	Blanco, Rubio, Huero,
Black	Negro/a, Mulato/a, Morena/o (?)
American Indian / Native American	Indígena, Maya, Mixteca
Asian	Asiático, Chino, Koreano
Some Other Race	Mestizo

Deeper analysis of race responses by Hispanics of different:

- Age
- Immigrant Generations
- National origin
- Ethnic Groups
- Geographic Area
- Class as measured by, for example, educational levels.

Understanding detailed write-ins on Race Question

New question gives us detailed write in for Black and White but may cause confusion among respondents by associating some origin groups under “races”

Focus groups on meaningful race and color concepts.

If Hispanics are not recognizing themselves in the race options we give, what terms and concepts would be meaningful both of respondent recognition and for measuring social and economic inequality?

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