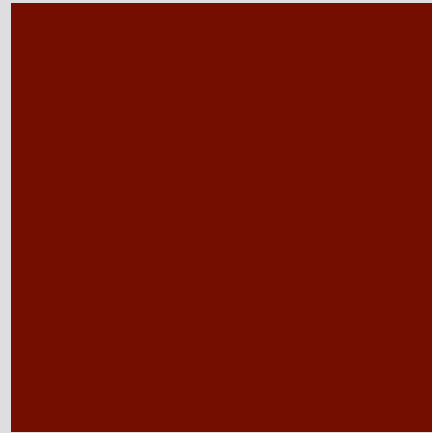




Creating Space for Mixed-Race Students

Center for Teaching
Excellence and Learning
Washburn University

Sandra Winn Tutwiler



November 15, 2016



MIXED-RACE YOUTH AND SCHOOLING

The Fifth Minority

Sandra Winn Tutwiler

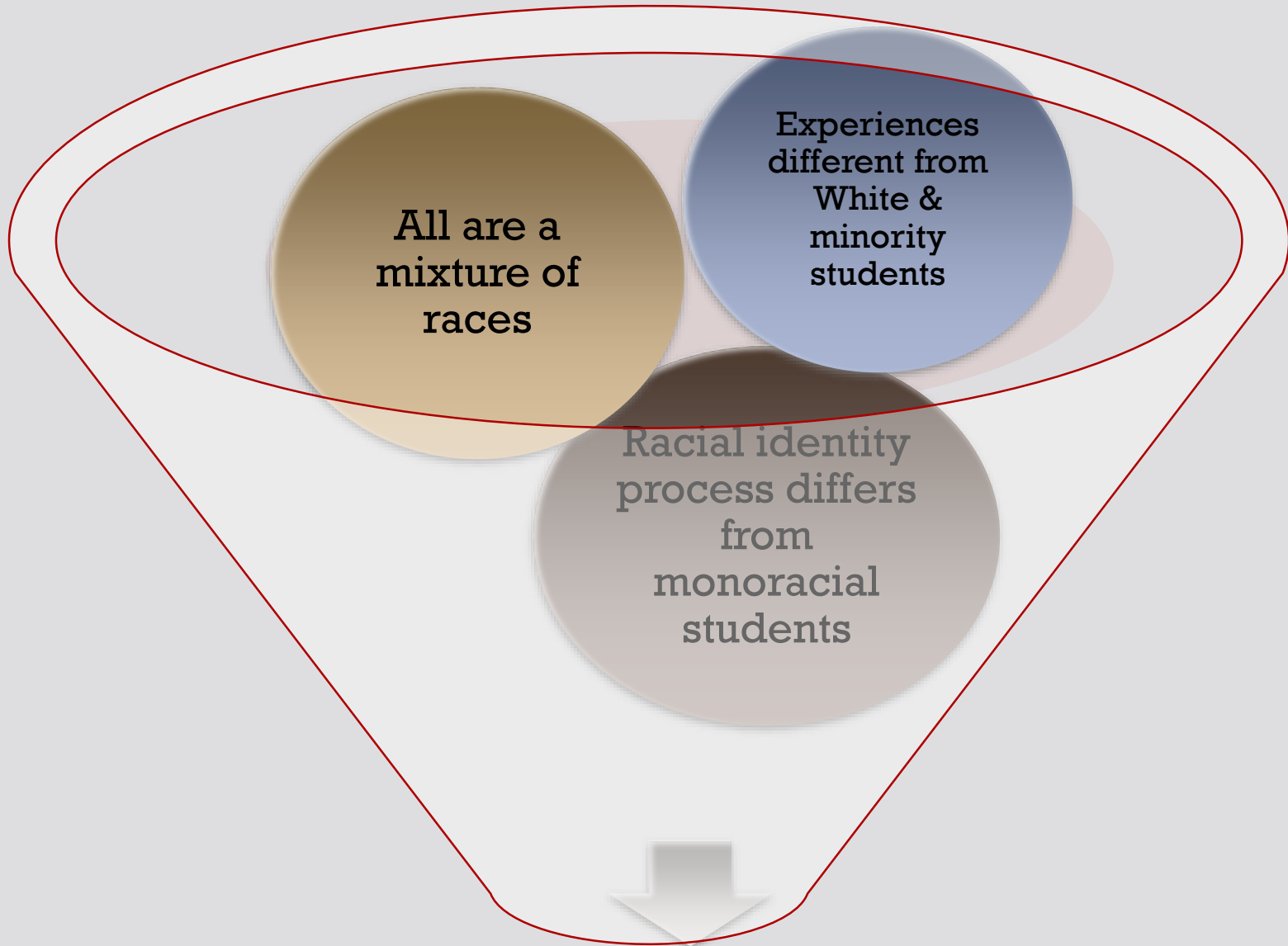




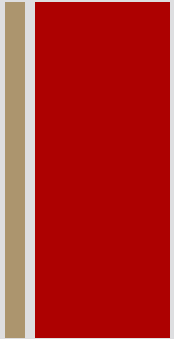
Mixed-Race Students are a Highly Diverse Group



Unique Group of Students

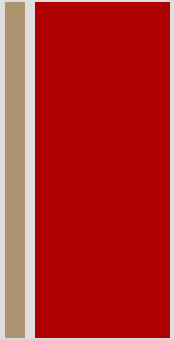


Mixed-race students are a
Fifth Minority





Influences on Increased Interest in Mixed-Race People



Check all that apply - Census 2000

Inclusion of two or more races category in new guidelines for collecting, aggregating, and reporting student race and ethnicity data (DOE)

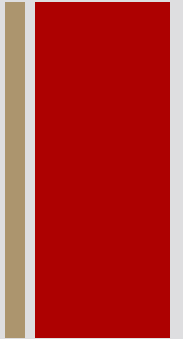
Parents right to designate children's race on P-12 school forms

Increase in the number and acceptance of interracial marriages and bonds

Increased tendency of mixed-race individuals to embrace their mixed heritage



Intersectionality and Mixedness



- Intersectionality refers to the social characteristics of an individual (e.g., race, class, gender, sexual orientation) that create overlapping and interdependent systems that lead to discrimination or disadvantage.
- For mixed-race people intersectionality must also include the mixed race heritage of the individual (e.g., white-African American, Asian American – white, Latino-African American).



Complexities of Race

One-Drop Rule/Hypodecent

The one drop rule or hypodecent is the automatic assignment of mixed-race people to the socially subordinate group of their mixed-race heritage.

Even though hypodecent is no longer based in law, it remains a social practice.



Complexities of Race

One-Drop Rule/Hypodecent



... people expect you to be one or the other, you can't be both ... They don't understand the whole mixed thing ... they expect me to be Black... the stereotypical Black girl .. I can't do that, I'd feel like ... I'm posing almost ...⁺ going to school, people teased me ... 'oh you should be Black, have a Black girl attitude, ha, ha' ... and I go wow, I don't' know how... I'm just as White as your are ... not a day goes by that I'm not reminded about my race. (OhKeiSyd 2013)

OhKeiSyd. (2013, March 26). *Being biracial in school* [Video file]. From <https://youtu.be/S18em1Hju0Y>



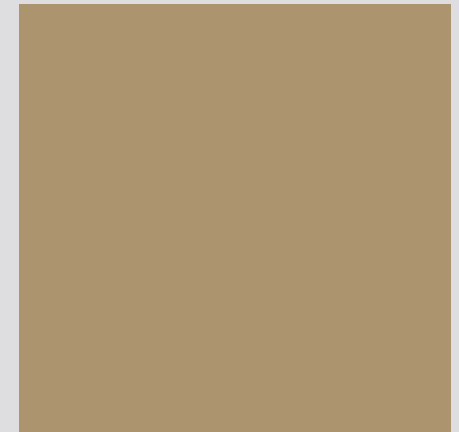
Racial Identity Based on Physical Appearance



- Leads to questions of “what are you?”
- Racial ambiguity leads to minority race designation by observers.
- People make assumptions that mixed-race persons has the same background and experiences as monoracial peers of color



Complexities of Race



Imposed Racial
Identity based
on Physical
Appearance

I would say I identify strongly [as black] only because I think part of how you define yourself is the category that society puts you into . . . when people look at me they are not going to see a white person. (Khanna, 2011, p. 49).



Complexities of Race Mixed-race in a Monoracial World



Social institutions tend
be predominantly
monoracial.



Family



Schools



Communities

University Campuses???



Complexities of Race



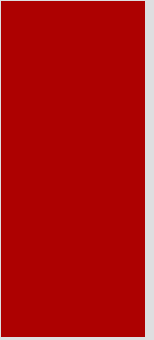
... I met another Blatina ... We were very close friends and that was really good for me because finally there was someone who completely understood. When I was with her, it was totally okay to be these two things. (Diaz, 1999, p. 53)

Minorities place expectations of minority-minority mixed-race people that may not fit the mixed-race persons sense of self.

Diaz, M. (1999). Race doesn't exist. In P. Gaskins (Ed.). *What are you?: Voices of mixed-race young people*, (p. 57). New York: Henry Holt and Company.



Racial Identity Development

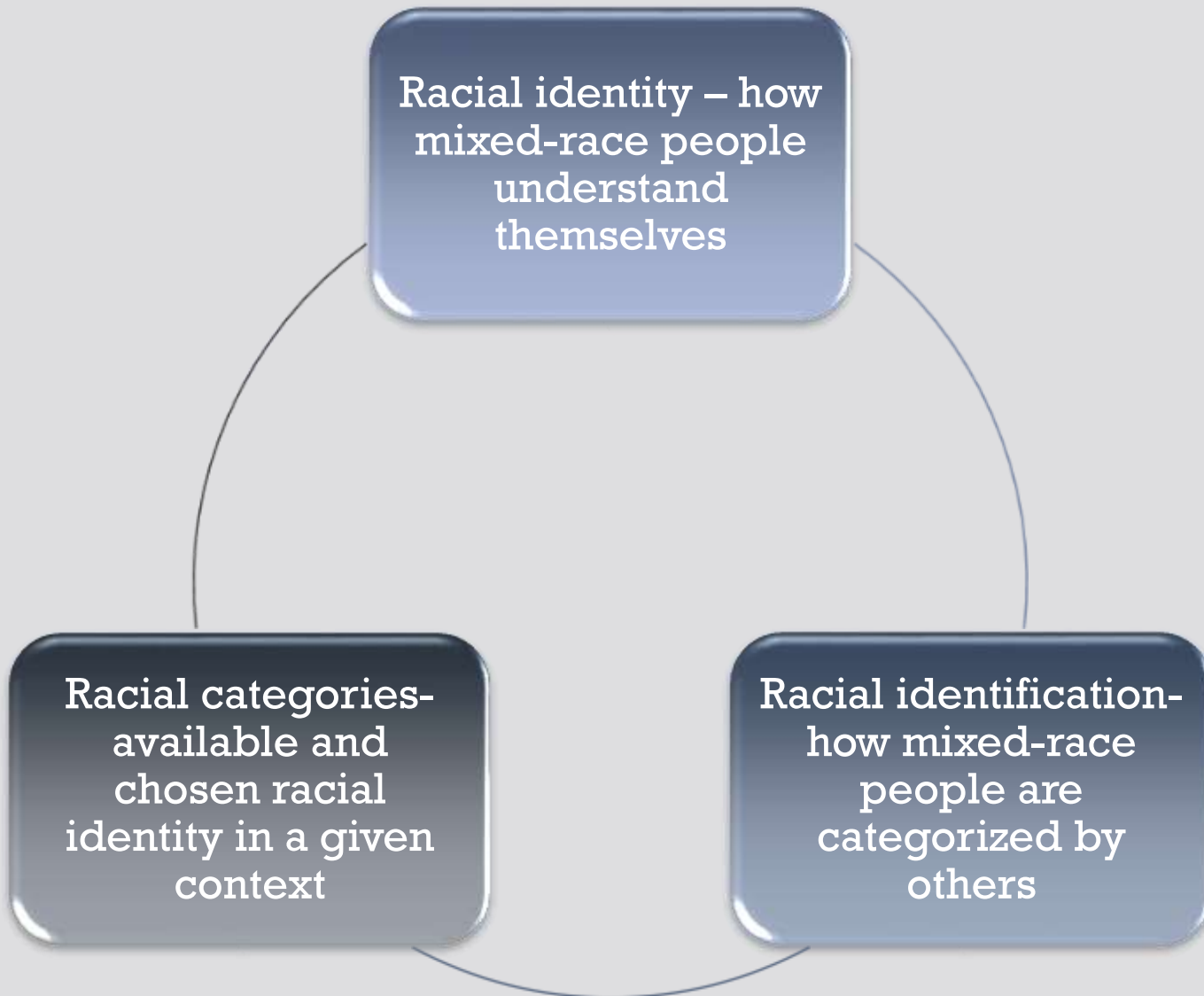


What is racial identity development?

Identity development is the process of self-discovery that begins in young children and continues through adulthood.

Racial identity development relates to decisions made about self-identity and racial group affiliation.

+ Racial Identity and Mixed-Race Youth



Rockquemore, K. A., Brunsma, D., & Delgado, D. (2009). Racing to theory or retheorizing race?: Understanding the struggle to build a multiracial identity theory. *Journal of Social Issues*, 65 (1), 13-64.



Influences on Racial Identity Development

Intersection of:

- ❑ Generation
- ❑ Region and Geographical History of Race
- ❑ Sexual Orientation
- ❑ Gender
- ❑ Class
- ❑ Family And Community Influences
- ❑ Individual Influences
- ❑ Mixed-race makeup

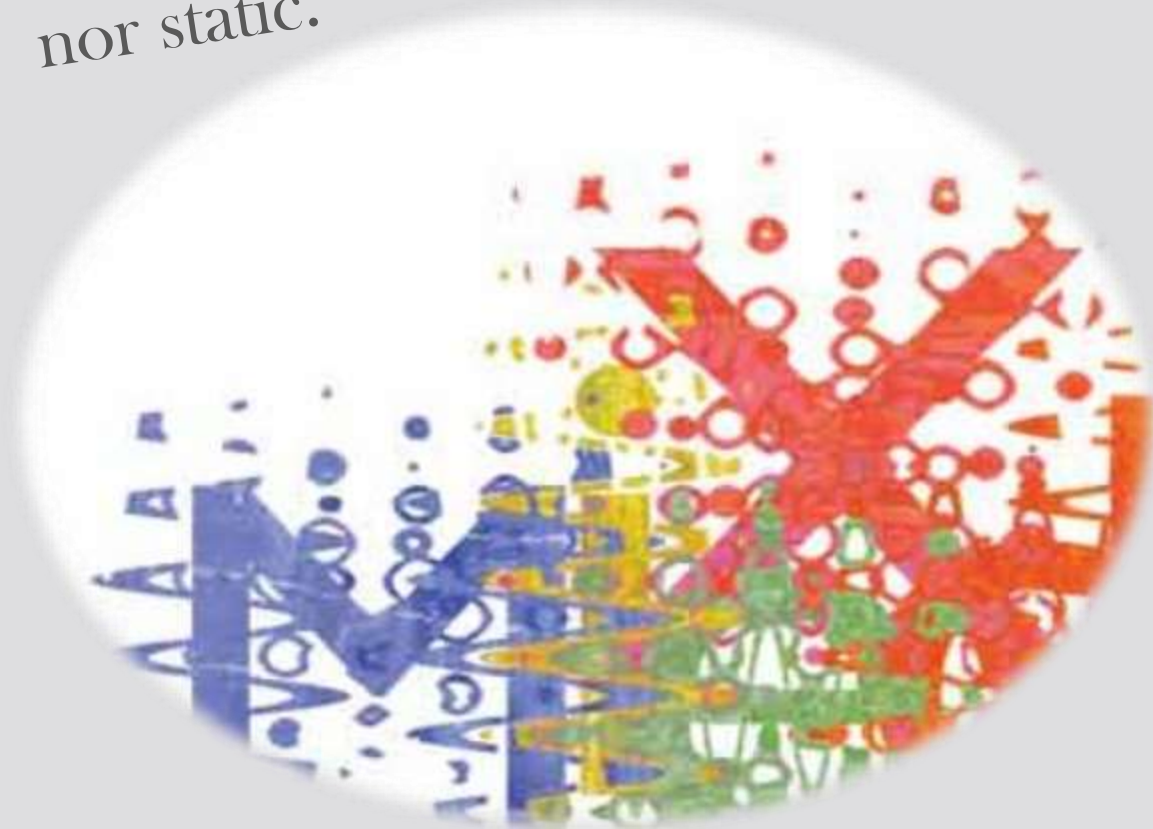




Racial Identity Pathways



For mixed-race youth
the identity construction
process is neither linear
nor static.



Racial identity
development for mixed-
race youth is fluid, and
changes over time.



Racial Identity Pathways- Influence of Physical Appearance

When I was in fourth grade I found familiarity with other Mexican kids. And I wanted to hang out with them. I was like, “I’m Mexican!” And I identified as Mexican even though I lived with my White mother. And so it was really hard for me because I wasn’t accepted by kids... And so slowly I began to transition into, I guess I identified more as White... (Bettez, 2012, pp 49-50)

Racial Identity Pathways – Influence of Race Acting

... I would study the music of black hip-hop culture and learn the dance, I learned the dialect too, I would wear the bigger clothes and jeans under my butt and all that kind of stuff ...
(Butler-Sweet, 2011, p. 204).





Racial Identity Pathways



Consolidation

Youth consolidate their identity by removing racial categories from their identity claims.



Example

White-Asian youth consolidates his/her racial categorization to solely White over time

Divergence

Youth engage in divergence by adding racial categories to their identity claims.

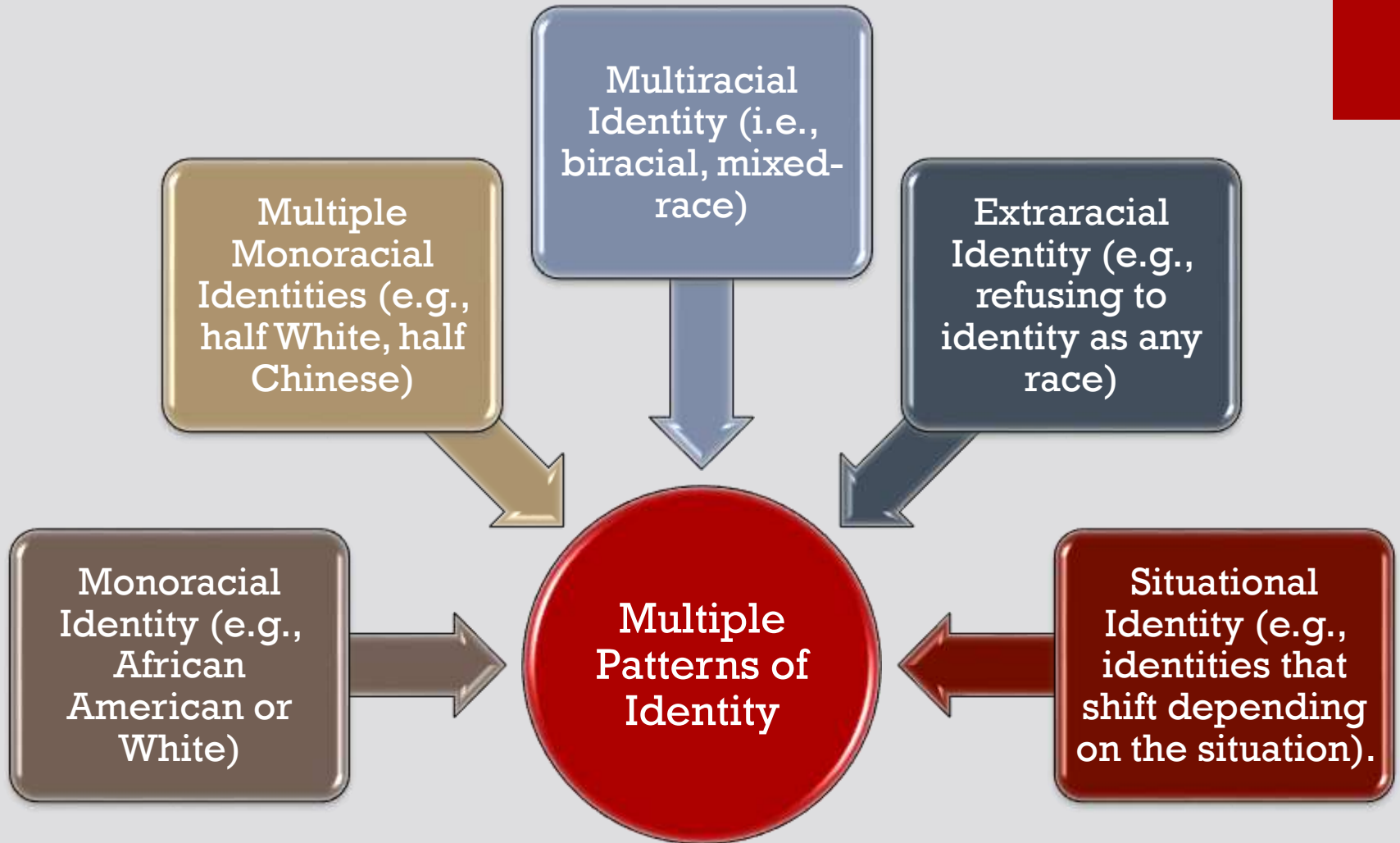


Example

White youth with Indian ancestry diversify to claim a White-Indian identity



Renn's Racial Identity Patterns



Renn, K. (2004). *Mixed race students in college: The ecology of race, identity, and community on campus*. Albany: State University of New York Press.



Population by Race, 2014

Mixed-race peoples are counted in the census

RACE	% US	% KS
White	77.4	86.8
Black or African American	13.2	6.3
American Indian and Alaska Native	1.2	1.2
Asian	5.4	2.8
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	0.2	0.1
Two or More Races,	2.5	2.8
Hispanic or Latino	17.4	11.4

From United States Census, State and County Quick Facts,
<http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/20000.html>



State Graduation Rates by Ethnicity

Kansas State Department of Education Report Card 2012-2013

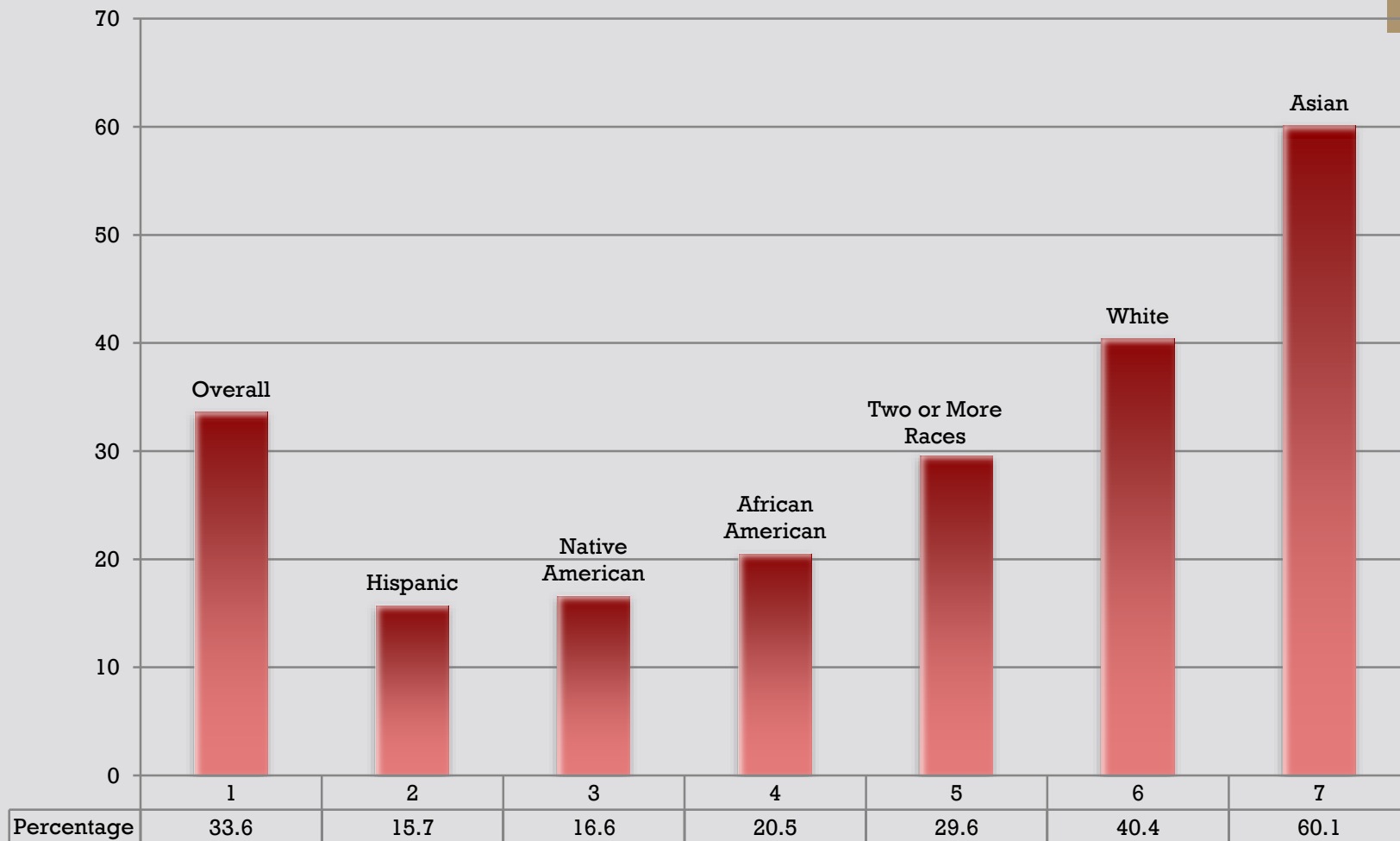
Mixed-race youth education rates are now tracked.

- Asian – 90.8%
- White – 87.3%
- Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander - 82.1%
- Multiracial - 82.1%
- Hispanic - 75.2%
- African American - 74.6%
- American Indian/Alaska Native - 74%





Bachelors or Higher Degree by Race 2013





Creating Space for Mixed-race Students



Campus-wide areas for inclusion

- ◆ Organizations
- ◆ Support Services (Counseling)

Support for Racial Identity
Development

- ◆ Visibility in campus literature
- ◆ University forms that allow choice
- ◆ Connection with other mixed race students
(residence hall)



Creating Space for Mixed-race Students



Classrooms –Faculty

- ◆ Discussions of race and race-related topics

Pedagogy of vulnerability

Deep Learning

Contemplative practices that are transformative

- ◆ Deliberate Race-Informed Relationships with students

- ◆ Race-Conscious Classroom Environments

Intersection of content and classroom experiences

+ Creating Space for Mixed-race Students

Classrooms-Content/Curriculum

Multicultural/Multiracial Cultural

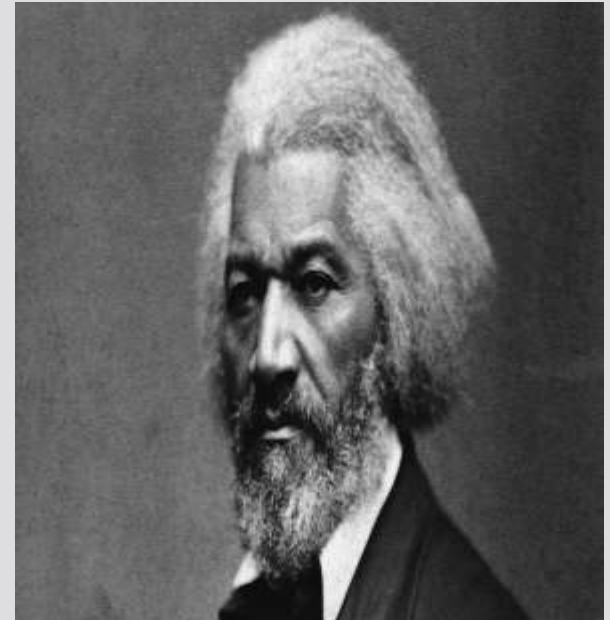
Course content that recognizes presence and influence of mixed race people and mixedness in U.S.



W.E.B. Dubois



Rosa Parks



Frederick Douglass



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HELPFUL WEBSITES

MAVIN: Mixed Heritage Experiences

<http://www.mavinfoundation.org/>

Mixed Race Studies: Scholarly Perspectives on the Mixed Race Experience

<http://www.mixedracestudies.org/>

National Association of Mixed Student Organizations (NAMSO)

<https://www.facebook.com/mixedstudentorgs/timeline>