



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

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OVERVIEW OF SESSION

- Introductions
- Considering current contexts
- Overview of racially biased incidents
- Presentation of typology
- Cases
- Large group discussion

WHAT BROUGHT US TOGETHER TODAY?

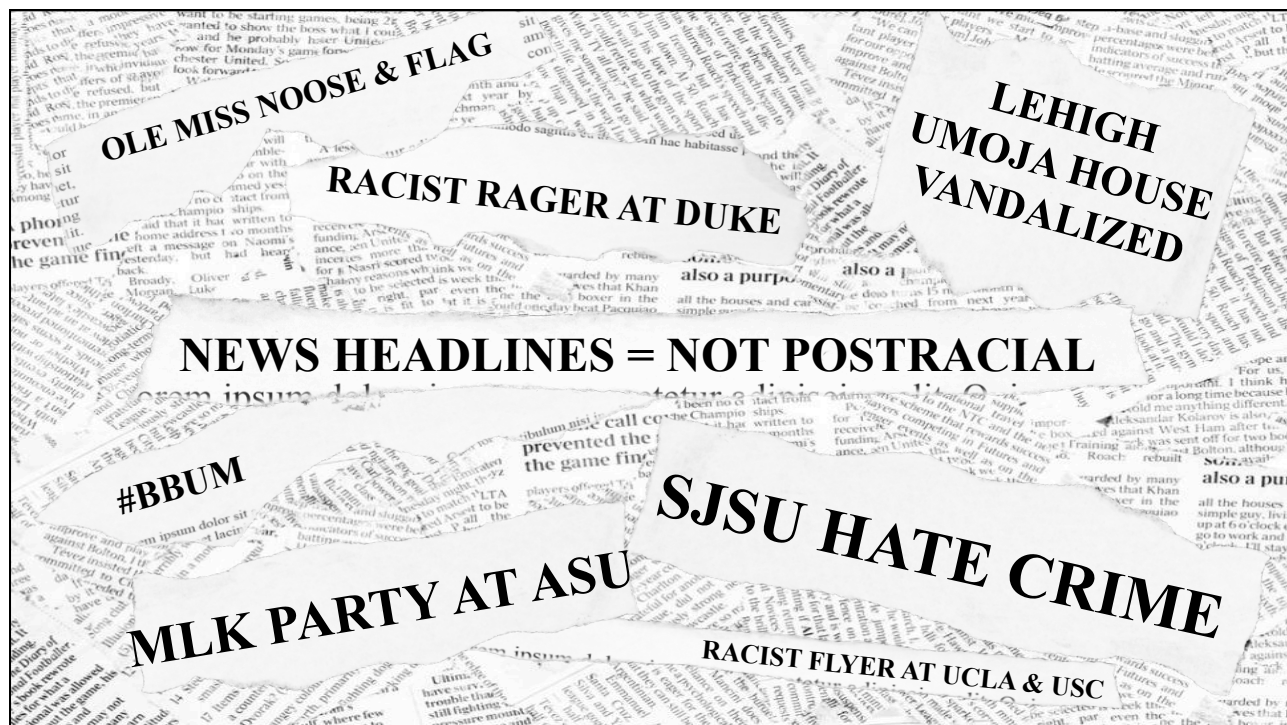
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CONSIDERING CURRENT CONTEXTS

Media Influences on Postracial Beliefs

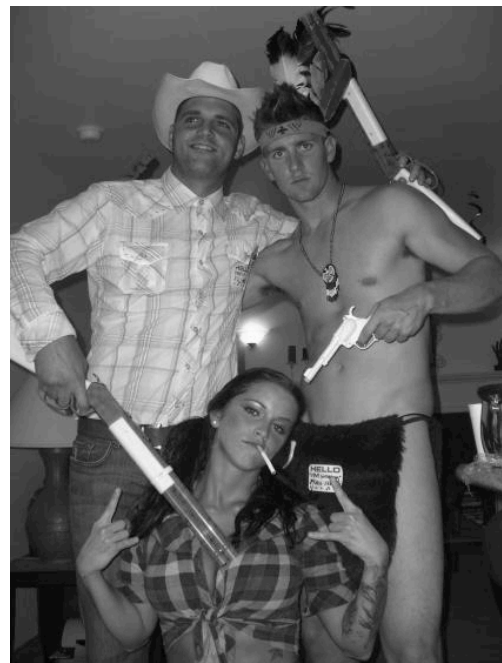
A POST-RACIAL ERA?

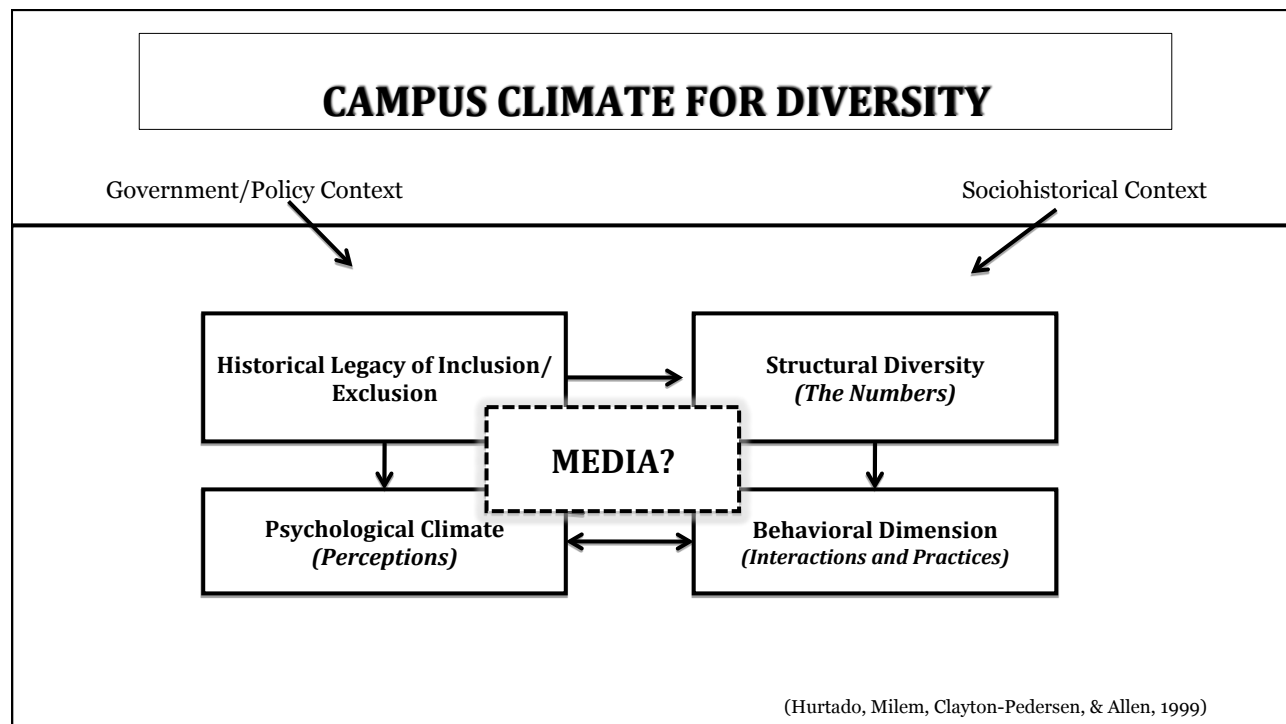
- The end of racism and/or end of racial differences?
- Popular claims somewhat detached from post-race theory (e.g., Hollinger, 2011)
 - Aversion to essentialism
 - Identity performed, not possessed
 - Post-ethnic alternatives
- “Postracial era” still plagued by colorblind racist ideology (Bonilla-Silva, 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

- Washington, J. (2008, Nov 15). Presidential election spurs “hundreds” of race threats, crimes. *Huffington Post*.
 - 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
- Garcia, Johnston, Garibay, Herrera, & Giraldo (2011). When parties become racialized: Deconstructing racially themed parties. *Journal of Student Affairs Research and Practice*, 48(1), 5-21.
 - 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





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 Senior 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

TOWARD A TYPOLOGY

OF RACIALLY BIASED INCIDENTS

TYPES OF RACIAL INCIDENTS

Police Brutality/Profiling

Assault/Fighting

Harassment/Intimidation/Verbal Slurs

Graffiti/Vandalism

TYPES OF RACIAL INCIDENTS (CONT.)

Racially Themed Parties

Socio-historical Symbols (e.g., noose)

Offensive Clothing/Costumes

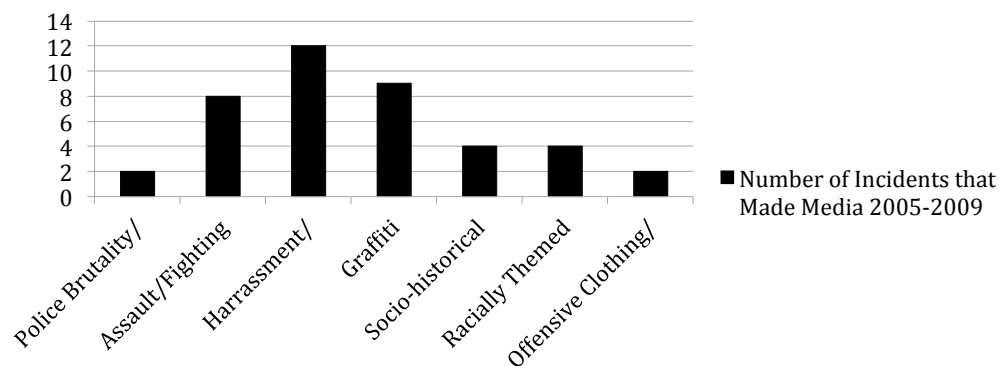
Flyers/Other Media

EXAMPLES

Type of Incident	Level	Example	Media Coverage
Harassment/ Intimidation/ Racial Slurs	Interpersonal	Susquehanna University, August 2008, two separate instances within a week of each other in which people in a car shouted racial slurs at students	1 campus newspaper article
Socio-historical Symbols	Intergroup	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	10+ campus and national newspaper articles

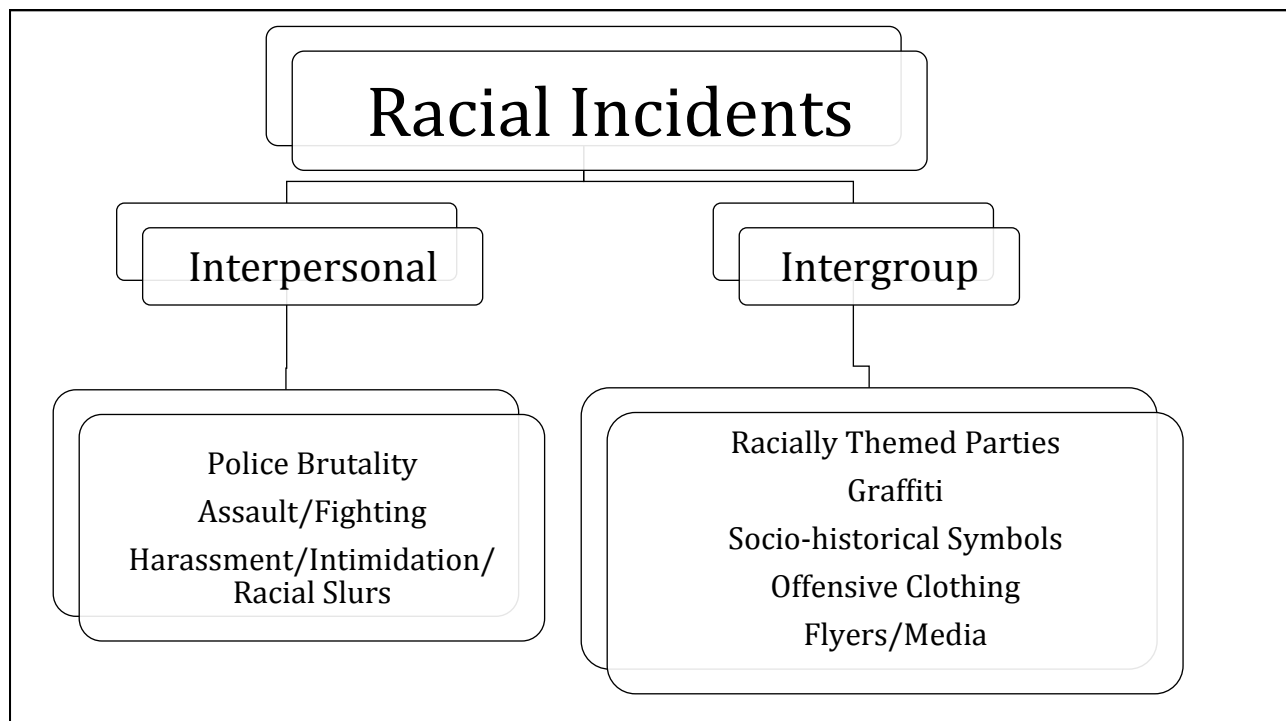
RACIALLY BIASED INCIDENTS

Number of Incidents that Made Media 2005-2009



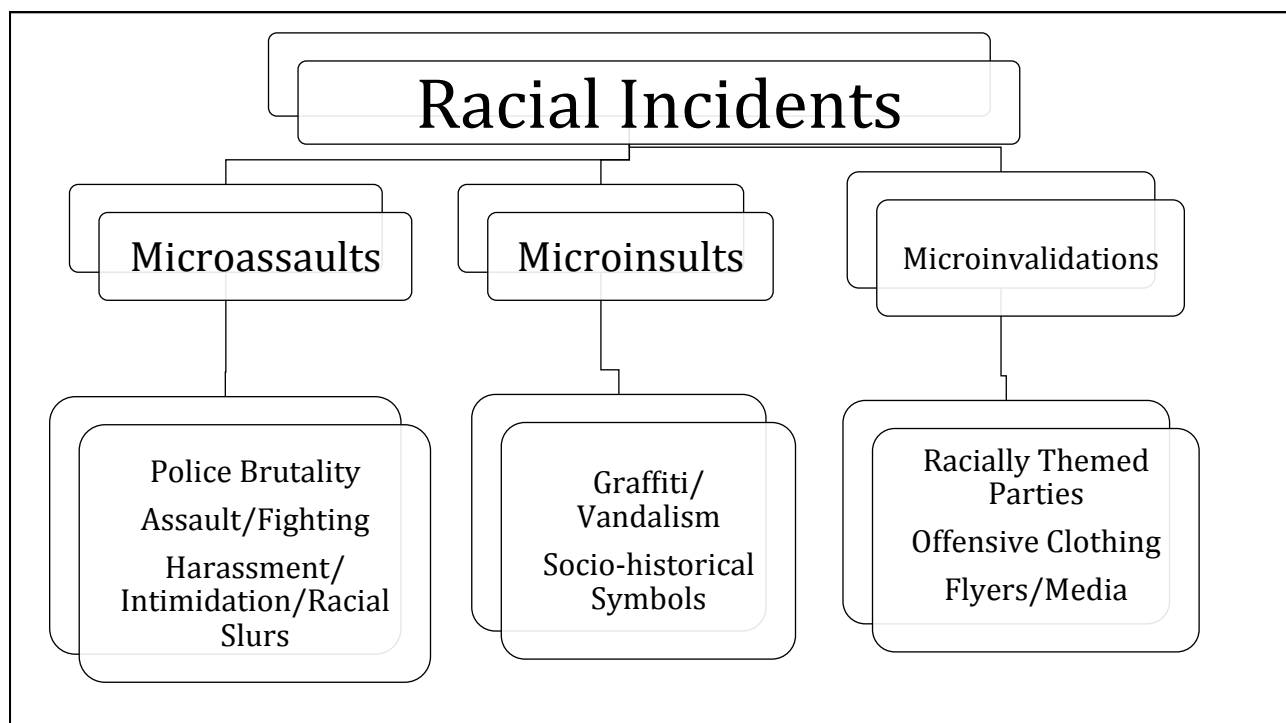
T TYPOLOGY?

Type of Incident	Level	Targeted Group	Quantity	Media Coverage	Microaggression
Police Brutality/ Profiling	Interpersonal	Blacks	2	Low (2)	Assault
Assault/Fighting	Interpersonal	Muslims Blacks	8	Low (6) High (2)	Assault
Harassment/ Intimidation/Verbal Racial Slurs	Interpersonal	Blacks Asians Jewish	12	Low (9) Med (1) High (2)	Assault
Graffiti /Vandalism	Intergroup	Jewish Latinas/os	9	Low (5) Med (3) High (1)	Insult
Socio-historical Symbols	Intergroup	Blacks	4	Low (1) High (3)	Insult
Racially Themed Parties	Intergroup	Whites; Latinas/os; American Indians; Blacks	4	Low (2) High (2)	Invalidation
Offensive Clothing/ Costume	Intergroup	Blacks	2	Low (2)	Invalidation
Flyers/ Other Media	Intergroup	Blacks American Indians	5	Low (1); Med (1); High (3)	Insult



RACIAL MICROAGGRESSIONS

- Racial microaggressions: brief and commonplace daily verbal, behavioral, or environmental indignities, whether intentional or 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
 - **MICROASSUALT** (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



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](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ynrdrK9f7L4)

USEFULNESS OF THE TYPOLOGY?

Type of Incident	Level	Microaggression
Police Brutality/Profiling	Interpersonal	Assault
Assault/Fighting	Interpersonal	Assault
Harassment/Intimidation/Verbal Racial Slurs	Interpersonal	Assault
Graffiti /Vandalism	Intergroup	Insult
Socio-historical Symbols	Intergroup	Insult
Racially Themed Parties	Intergroup	Invalidation
Offensive Clothing/Costume	Intergroup	Invalidation
Flyers/ Other Media	Intergroup	Insult

CASE 2: OFFENSIVE FLYERS TARGETING ASIAN AMERICAN STUDIES AT UCLA & USC

Video clip retrieved from:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l3Be2T9xLeM>

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