



Ethnic Identity and Ethnicity-Related Stress in Accompanied and Unaccompanied Adolescent Immigrants: Does the Family Work as Social Capital for Adolescent Immigrants?

PDF (Size: 135KB) PP. 370-377 DOI: 10.4236/psych.2012.34052

Author(s)

Lars-Eric Petersen, Ulrike Dünnebier, Olaf Morgenroth

ABSTRACT

This study assesses the ethnic identity and ethnicity-related stress for adolescent immigrants accompanied by their families, for unaccompanied adolescent immigrants and for native (German) adolescents. Seventy adolescents completed the Ethnic Group Membership Questionnaire and the Perceived Ethnic Discrimination Questionnaire. Results show that unaccompanied adolescent immigrants (n = 20) report more negative private feelings about their own ethnic identity, lower beliefs about the public's regard for their ethnic group and more ethnicity-related stress in the dimensions "perceived ethnic discrimination", "stereotype confirmation concern" and "own-group conformity pressure" than accompanied adolescent immigrants (n = 25) and German adolescents (n = 25). Accompanied adolescent immigrants revealed higher scores than German adolescents only in the dimension "perceived ethnic discrimination". Results support the hypothesis derived from the theory of social capital that for the accompanied adolescent immigrants, the family works as social capital, reduces ethnicity-related stress, and promotes the development of a positive ethnic identity.

KEYWORDS

Ethnic Identity; Ethnicity-Related Stress; Social Capital; Adolescent Immigrants

Cite this paper

Petersen, L., Dünnebier, U. & Morgenroth, O. (2012). Ethnic Identity and Ethnicity-Related Stress in Accompanied and Unaccompanied Adolescent Immigrants: Does the Family Work as Social Capital for Adolescent Immigrants?. *Psychology*, 3, 370-377. doi: 10.4236/psych.2012.34052.

References

- [1] Aronson, J., Quinn, D. M., & Spencer, S. J. (1998). Stereotype threat and the academic underperformance of minorities and women. In J. K. Swim, & C. Stangor (Eds.), *Prejudice: The target's perspective* (pp. 83-103). San Diego, CA: Academic Press.
- [2] Barn, R. (2010). Care leavers and social capital: Understanding and negotiating racial and ethnic identity. *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, 33, 832-850. doi:10.1080/01419870903318896
- [3] Barn, R., Andrew, L., & Mantovani, N. (2005). *Life after care: A study of the experience of young people from different ethnic groups*. York: Joseph Rowntree Foundation
- [4] Baumeister, R. F. (1998). The self. In D. T. Gilbert, S. T. Fiske, & G. Lindzey (Eds.), *The handbook of social psychology* (4th ed., Vol. 1, pp. 680-740). New York, NY: McGraw-Hill.
- [5] Bürgelt, P. T., Morgan, M., & Pernice, R. (2008). Staying or returning: Pre-migration influences on the migration process of German migrants to New Zealand. *Journal of Community and Applied Social Psychology*, 18, 282-298. doi:10.1002/casp.924
- [6] Coleman, J. S. (1988). Social capital in the creation of human capital. *American Journal of Sociology*, 94, 95-121. doi:10.1086/228943
- [7] Contrada, R. J., Ashmore, R. D., Gary, M. L., Coups E., Egeth, J. D., Sewell, A., Ewell, K., Goyal, T. M., &

- [Open Special Issues](#)
- [Published Special Issues](#)
- [Special Issues Guideline](#)

[PSYCH Subscription](#)

[Most popular papers in PSYCH](#)

[About PSYCH News](#)

[Frequently Asked Questions](#)

[Recommend to Peers](#)

[Recommend to Library](#)

[Contact Us](#)

Downloads:	247,358
Visits:	543,411

[Sponsors >>](#)

- Chasse, V. (2001). Measures of ethnicity-related stress: Psychometric properties, ethnic group differences, and associations with well-being. *Journal of Applied Social Psychology, 31*, 1775-1820. doi:10.1111/j.1559-1816.2001.tb00205.x
- [8] Crocker, J., & Major, B. (1989). Social stigma and self-esteem: The self-protective properties of stigma. *Psychological Review, 96*, 608- 639. doi:10.1037/0033-295X.96.4.608
- [9] De Garmo, D. S., & Martinez, C. R. (2006). A culturally informed model of academic well-being for Latino youth: The importance of discriminatory experience and social support. *Family Relations, 55*, 267-278. doi:10.1111/j.1741-3729.2006.00401.x
- [10] Deaux, K. (2000). Surveying the landscape of immigration: Social psychological perspectives. *Journal of Community and Applied Social Psychology, 10*, 421-431. doi:10.1002/1099-1298(200009/10)10:5<421::AID-CASP598>3.0.CO;2-Y
- [11] Feagin, J. R., & Sikes, M. P. (1994). *Living with racism: The black middle-class experience*. Boston: Beacon.
- [12] Fordham, S., & Ogbu, J. U. (1986). Black students' school success: Coping with the "burden of acting white". *Urban Review, 18*, 176- 206. doi:10.1007/BF01112192
- [13] Fuligni, A. J., & Yoshikawa, H. (2003). Socioeconomic resources, parenting, and child development among immigrant families. In M. Bornstein, & R. Bradley (Eds.), *Socioeconomic status, parenting, and child development* (pp. 107-124). Mahwah, NJ: Lawrence Erlbaum.
- [14] Hemmati, M., Wintermantel, M., & Paul, M. (1999). What are the impacts of xenophobic events on foreigners? Empirical studies of cognitive, emotional and behavioural consequences. In R. Dollase et al. (Eds.), *Political psychology of xenophobia: Victims-actors-collaborators*. München: Juventa.
- [15] Jasinskaja, I., Liebkind, K., & Perhoniemi, R. (2006). Perceived discrimination and well-being: A victim study of different immigrant groups. *Journal of Community and Applied Social Psychology, 16*, 267-284. doi:10.1002/casp.865
- [16] Klingelhfer, S., & Rieker, P. (2004). Young immigrants in Germany. *Jugend Beruf Gesellschaft: Zeitschrift für Jugendsozialarbeit, 55*, 100-108.
- [17] Landrine, H., & Klonoff, E. A. (1996). The schedule of racist events: A measure of racial discrimination and a study of its negative physical and mental health consequences. *Journal of Black Psychology, 22*, 144-168. doi:10.1177/00957984960222002
- [18] Luhtanen, R., & Crocker, J. (1992). A collective self-esteem scale: Self-evaluation one's social identity. *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin, 18*, 302-318. doi:10.1177/0146167292183006
- [19] Lykes, M. B. (1983). Discrimination and coping in the lives of black woman: Analyses of oral history data. *Journal of Social Issues, 39*, 79-100. doi:10.1111/j.1540-4560.1983.tb00157.x
- [20] Markus, H. R. (2008). Pride, prejudice, and ambivalence: Toward a unified theory of race and ethnicity. *American Psychologist, 63*, 651- 670. doi:10.1037/0003-066X.63.8.651
- [21] McNeilly, M. D., Anderson, N. B., Armstead, C. A., Clark, R., Corbett, M., Robinson, E. L., Pieper, C. F., & Lepisto, E. M. (1996). The perceived racism scale: A multidimensional assessment of the experiences of White racism among African Americans. *Ethnicity and Disease, 6*, 154-166.
- [22] Phinney, J. S. (1990). Ethnic identity in adolescents and adults: A review of research. *Psychological Bulletin, 108*, 499-514. doi:10.1037/0033-2909.108.3.499
- [23] Phinney, J. S. (1996a). When we talk about American ethnic groups, what do we mean? *American Psychologist, 51*, 918-928. doi:10.1037/0003-066X.51.9.918
- [24] Phinney, J. S. (1996b). Understanding ethnic diversity: The role of ethnic identity. *American Behavioral Scientist, 40*, 143-152. doi:10.1177/0002764296040002005
- [25] Phinney, J. S. (2000). Ethnic identity. In A. Kazdin, (Ed.), *Encyclopedia of psychology*, (Vol. 3, pp. 255-259). Washington, DC: Psychological Association
- [26] Portes, A. (1998). Social capital: Its origins and applications in modern sociology. *Annual Review of Sociology, 24*, 1-24. doi:10.1146/annurev.soc.24.1.1
- [27] Reynolds, T. (2006). Caribbean families, social capital and young people's diasporic identities. *Ethnic and Racial Studies, 29*, 1087-1103. doi:10.1080/01419870600960362

- [28] Robinson, L. (2000). Racial identity attitudes and self-esteem of black adolescents in residential care: an exploratory study. *British Journal of Social Work*, 30, 3-24. doi:10.1093/bjsw/30.1.3
- [29] Sassenberg, K., Fehr, J., Hansen, N., Matschke, C., & Woltin, K. A. (2007). A social-psychological analysis on how to reduce the social discrimination of migrants. *Zeitschrift für Sozialpsychologie*, 38, 239-249. doi:10.1024/0044-3514.38.4.239
- [30] Schmitt-Rodermund, E., & Silbereisen, R. K. (2008). Well-adapted adolescent ethnic German immigrants in spite of adversity: The protective effects of human, social, and financial capital. *European Journal of Developmental Psychology*, 5, 186-209. doi:10.1080/17405620701557290
- [31] Skrobanek, J. (2009). Perceived discrimination, ethnic identity and the (re-) ethnicisation of youth with a Turkish ethnic background in Germany. *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, 35, 535-554. doi:10.1080/13691830902765020