



A Mixed Race Future and What it Means for Libraries

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AGENDA

- Introductions & Who We are
- Importance of the project - Why we do this Work
 - Definitions
 - Demographic Changes
 - Isolation & Invisibility if not Deliberately Included
 - Trends
- Examples of this Work
 - Adapting this work to Your Setting
- Resources

Marna



Karen



Definitions...

Mixed race

Our own working definition:

Anyone who identifies with more than one race (whether from mixed parentage, ancestry, or adoption)

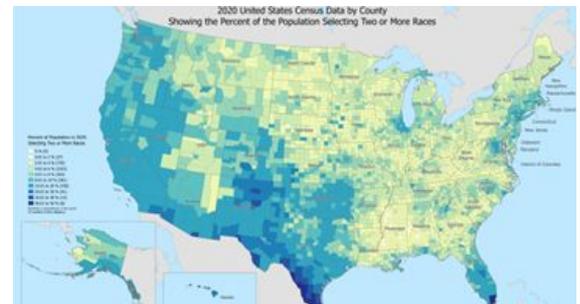
Similar terms: Multiracial, biracial, transnational adoptee, etc.

Monoracism

Where mixed race identity, background, and experiences are challenged or denied (Harris, et al., 2021; Jackson, et al., 2021).

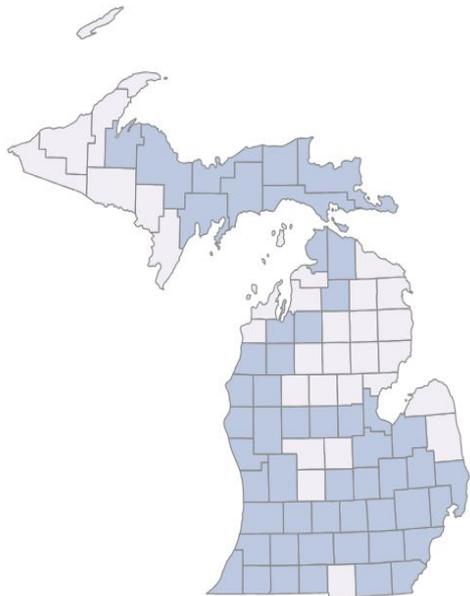
Why is this Important?

Mixed race populations are growing in our nation, and within our schools, communities, and campuses. National and local statistics provide us in libraries with a wake-up call that our user communities have been and will continue to be shifting in profound ways, and that we need to be well-positioned to meet the needs of mixed race kids, young adults, adults, students, teachers, and researchers.



Percent Two or More Races, Total Population by County: 2020

Michigan: 6.3%



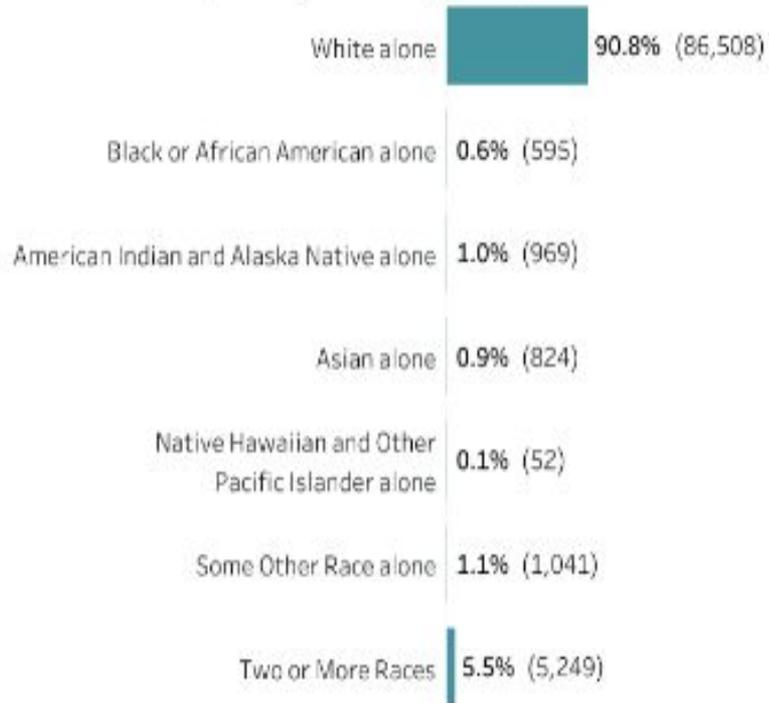
<https://www.census.gov/library/stories/state-by-state/michigan-population-change-between-census-decade.html>

Grand Traverse County, Michigan

Two or More Races

Percentage of total population: 5.5% (5,249 people)

Percentage of Total Population



Belonging is everything. It is paramount to our happiness as human beings; it places us in a story, a history, and colors our lives with purpose and meaning.

-- Georgina Lawton (*Raceless*, 2021, p. 15)

- Many mixed race people experience **racism** AND **monoracism** (Jackson et al., 2021; Johnston-Guerrero, Tran, Combs, 2020)
- Mixed race people often experience **isolation** when trying to negotiate identity and experiences (Harris & BrckaLorenz, 2017; Kamimura, 2010)
- Many mixed race people become expert **code-switchers** depending on their environmental context and their background. This is a strength, but can also be exhausting and lead to monoracist encounters (Harris, 2020; Kamimura, 2010).

Quotes from U-M Mixed Race Students

“I would love for more people to be aware of the mixed-race community and how alienating it can be, we often are overlooked and dismissed in discussions of race.”

“The university is a mono-racial institution that needs to address the issues that affect us. I have attended classes and they are all mono-racially directed.”

“There is not much representation and it is hard to find a place or programs that include us.”

Kamala Harris

Vice President Kamala Harris has long resisted attempts by others to categorize her identity. *“I am who I am,” she once said. “I’m good with it. You might need to figure it out, but I’m fine with it.”*
Erin Schaff/The New York Times



Dwayne “The Rock” Johnson

After a twitter debate regarding how he identifies, Johnson tweeted, *“Glad I came across this and I’ll give you guys some context [and] truth. I identify as exactly what I am - both. Black and Samoan”*



Our Work in this Area



Mixed Race Students in the Academy: Experiences of Invisibility and Inclusion

Karen E. Downing, Education Librarian, kdown@umich.edu, Donovan Johnson, Peer Information Consultant, Jasmin Lee, Library Engagement Fellow, Marna Clowney-Robinson, Graduate Student Success Librarian [Latinx Research Week, 2023](https://www.umich.edu/research-week-2023)

BACKGROUND Mixed race populations are growing in our nation, and on college campuses. From 2010 to 2016, enrollment of students who identify as two or more races increased 239 percent (Zook, 2019). Because mixed race populations skew young, these individuals constitute our future student, staff and faculty pipelines.

CONCERN: Most campuses do not adequately include the experiences and issues related to mixed race people in curricula, research, and student life services (Barnes, 2022; Zook, 2019). Demographic trends should serve as a wakeup call for many postsecondary institutions, and together, curriculum planners, student life workers, academic librarians, and others must be positioned to meet the needs of mixed race people.

U-M CAMPUS CONTEXT 2021-22 marked the largest undergraduate class to enter U-M. This included the largest class of students identifying as more than one race. Students who identify as mixed race number 2,200!

- 115 faculty identify as "two or more races" in 2021.
- 970 staff identify as "two or more races" in 2021.

Total "two or more races" U-M community members = **3,285**.

CONCERN: Like many campuses, we don't have adequate curricular, co-curricular, and infrastructure support and visibility for students, faculty and staff who identify as mixed-race...

Between 2010 and 2020, the mixed race population increased from nine million people to 33.8 million people, a 275% increase (Ibrama et al., 2021).



2020 US Census

"Between 2010 and 2020, the number of Latinx people reporting more than one race increased 507% from 3 million (6.0%) to 20.3 million (32.7%) (U.S. Census, 2021)." <https://www.pewresearch.org/2021/08/11/mixed-race/>



2020 Census

Mixed race
Our own definition: Anyone who identifies with more than one race (whether from mixed parentage, ancestry, or adoption)
Similar terms: Multiracial, biracial, transnational adoptee, etc.
Monoracism
Where mixed race identity, background, and experiences are challenged or denied (Harris, et al., 2021; Jackson, et al., 2021).

U-M CAMPUS CONTEXT  **Mixed@Michigan** is a student group that fosters a community of mixed, biracial, multiracial, multiethnic, and transnational adoptee students that raise mixed race awareness on campus about mixed race issues. We provide a space for students to feel accepted and at home at the University of Michigan.

MIXED RACE RESEARCH **TAKE THE SURVEY**

"I would love for more people to be aware of the mixed-race community and how addressing it can be, we often are overlooked and dismissed in discussions of race."

"The university is a mono-racial institution that needs to address the issues that affect us. I have attended classes and they are all mono-racially directed."

"Being mixed-race here, it's very difficult to try to identify, [because] race categories and organizations are one-type only."

"There is not much representation and it is hard to find a place or programs that include us."

RESOURCES **The Library's Mixed Race Project**

Exhibits

Library Resources

Library Research Guide

Published Research on Mixed Race Issues in Education



Thoughts? Please Leave Us Comments (with the provided post-it notes!)



LOCATIONS AND HOURS INFORMATION FOR ASK A LIBRARIAN

Find, Borrow, Request Visit and Study Research and Scholarship Coll

Home > Visit and Study > Events and Exhibits > Today and Upcoming > Identity of

Identity and Socialization of Mixed Race Children

WHEN Friday, November 1, 2024 from 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM

WHERE Clark Presentation Space, Hatcher Library South

EVENT TYPE Lecture/Discussion

SERIES Exploring Mixed Race and Interracial Family Experiences

Multiracial America

A Resource Guide on the History and Literature of Interracial Issues

KAREN DOWNING
DARLENE NICHOLS
KELLY WEBSTER

Exhibits & Programs

Loving V. Virginia “The Case That Made It All Possible!”



Karen Downing
Donovan Johnson

[Home](#) > [About Us](#) > [News](#) > Exploring Mixed Race and Interracial Family Experiences

Exploring Mixed Race and Interracial Family Experiences

September 6, 2024

Last year, when the university was revisiting its DEI strategy and the 2020 census data had just been released, Education Librarian Karen Downing saw an opportunity to dig deeper into an area of interest she'd long pursued: helping mixed-race students and others in the community feel welcome and included on campus.

Now, a library exhibit — [Being Mixed Race in a Mono-racially Organized World](#) — puts on display some of the research findings that emerged from this effort.

[Read about the collaborative approach](#) Downing took to drive the creation of the exhibit and related programming, and join us for some or all of the related programming (check back as we'll be adding to this list of events):

Film screenings followed by discussion

[TEDx Talks on Being Biracial](#), October 2

[What Are You?](#), October 10

[Hapa](#), November 7



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Collections

M LIBRARY Research Guides

University of Michigan Library / Research Guides / Interracial Resources / Introduction

Interracial Resources

Fiction and non-fiction resources on topics relating to interracial people and relationships.

Introduction

Finding Articles

Finding Books

Finding Dissertations

Finding Non-print Media

Selected Courses on Interracial Topics

Finding Online Content

Library Contact

Why Use This Research Guide?

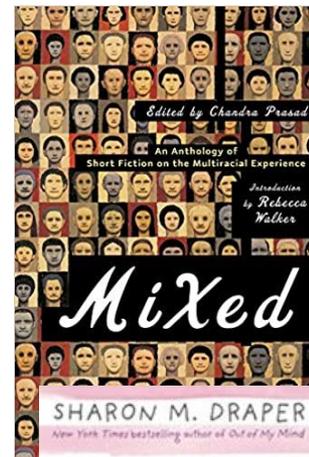
Increasingly, scholars are studying mixed race topics and publishing articles, books, websites, and other media related to mixed race experiences. Finding these materials can be challenging, however, because of:

- a lack of standardized language describing mixed race issues and people
- every database uses its own set of vocabulary to describe mixed race
- indexers don't always apply mixed race terms to relevant materials

This guide will help you navigate these issues, and suggest sample search syntax focused on each scholarly database, and suggest selected resources (articles, books, videos, etc.) to explore.



Ask a Librarian



Activity: Look at your library's catalog

Using your phone, tablet or laptop, search for mixed race related materials and see what you find, then pair up with another participant and talk about what you found and how you went about finding it.



Programs: Film Series

<https://www.lib.umich.edu/about-us/news/exploring-mixed-race-and-interracial-family-experiences>

- Discussion starter questions
- Short films to leave time for discussion



Examples of this Work from other Libraries

Discussion:

Has your library done anything around these issues?

Research Guides

- Fullerton College: [Unpacking Race and Racism | A Resource Guide: Biracial/Multiracial People](#)
- CalPolyPomona: [Multiracial Research Guide](#)
- Austin Community College: [Cultural Fluency: Multiracial / Two or More Races](#)
- Oregon State University: [Multiracial Identity Resources](#)

Loving Day Celebrations

- [Loving Month Resources](#) (University of Wisconsin)
- [LovingDay.org](#)

Examples of Programs: Ann Arbor District Library

Instagram

Log In Sign Up



Understanding and Empowering Mixed Kids
with Raina LaGrand

MONDAY | SEPT 9 | 6:30PM
DOWNTOWN LIBRARY

RAINA LAGRAND

aadlgram • Follow

aadlgram Research shows multiracial youth are more likely to struggle with mental health, but less likely to seek help. Join us for a crucial talk with Raina LaGrand LMSW, MPH, CYT, as she explains why mixed kids face these unique challenges and what we can do to support their well-being. This event is a must for parents and anyone working with youth! #AADL #MentalHealthMatters

Monday, September 9 at 6:30 pm at the Downtown Library.

3w

mindmoneybalance LOVE THIS @aadlgram @roottorisesomatics

3w 1 like Reply

View reels (1)

54 likes

How to Replicate this Work in Ways that Make Sense for Your Community

- Developing your community's profile
- Needs assessment (that doesn't break the bank or monopolize all your time)
- Find community collaborators
- Use/re-use existing resources! No need to reinvent the wheel!

Don't Reinvent



Perfect It

Resources

- [Interracial Resource Guide](#)
- [Materials for Your Own Exhibits](#)
- [Ideas for Programs](#)
- Ideas for Your Collections (children)
 - <https://www.slj.com/story/12-books-for-young-readers-that-center-mixed-race-protagonists-aapi-month-biracial%C2%A0>
 - <https://diversebookfinder.org/books/collections/multiracial-families/>

Resources

- Ideas for Your Collections (Young Adults)
 - https://www.goodreads.com/list/show/89755.Mixed_Race_MG_YA
 - <https://www.epicreads.com/blog/multiracial-protagonists/>
- Ideas for Your Collections (Adults)
 - https://www.barnesandnoble.com/b/books/ethnic-minority-studies/racially-mixed-biracial-people/_/N-29Z8q8Z18qz
 - <https://shereads.com/influential-books-biracial-authors/>
 - <https://mixedracestudies.org/wp/?cat=15>

Questions?
Comments?
Discussion...

