

The Effects of Ideology on the Perceptions of Racial Passing

Abstract:

Previous research has shown that racial passing is negatively judged by various individuals (Albuja, 2018). It has also shown that higher endorsement of Color Blind Ideology (CBI) has been associated with negative moral judgments of racial passing and racial passers (Leonard, 2020). This study aimed to replicate previous research. Conducted during COVID-19 pandemic, the study also explores the relationship between pandemic threat exposure (indexed by location) and negative judgments of racial passing. Data analysis and interpretation is still ongoing. This work supplements previous research about the effects of CBI on moral judgments of racial passing important.

Background & Literature

- **Racial passing:** accentuating features of another race other than one's own in order to gain a benefit or avoid harm.
 - Research has shown that racial passing is negatively judged
- **Colorblind Ideology:** a post-racial belief that acknowledging race perpetuates racism by bringing more attention to it.
 - Studies have shown that higher endorsement of CBI is associated with more negative judgments of racial passing (Albuja, 2018).
- **Terror Management Theory & Worldview Threat:** TMT suggests when one's mortality becomes salient, individuals cope by defending their cultural view (Pyszczynski, 1999).

Hypotheses:

- H1.** Black-passing scenarios will be judged more negatively than White-passing scenarios.
- H2.** There will be a negative relationship between colorblind ideology endorsement and judgment of the racial passing scenarios
- H3.** We expect to observe a negative relationship between pandemic threat exposure and moral judgments.

Methods:

- Participants:
 - Mean Age= 36.57, SD= 11.928
 - Men 42.77%, Women 54.09%, Transgender %1.89, Non-binary %0.63
 - White %72.96

Procedures:

- Participants:
 - Completed a CBI scale
 - Rated their moral judgments of different scenarios including racial passing ones.
 - They rated how closely they wanted to interact with the person in the passing scenario.
 - Demographics & Debrief

Results: *Still ongoing*

- We expect to find that Black-passing scenarios will be judged more negatively
- We expect that greater worldview threat will correlate with more negative judgements of passing scenarios

Conclusion

This research aims to add to the growing literature on racial passing and the effects of CBI on it. It also expands on knowledge about threat exposure, worldview threat and their enforcement of cultural worldview

Sample item *On a scale of*

1: strongly disagree to 7: strongly agree

I wish people in this society would stop obsessing so much about race.

Sources:

1. Albuja, A., Sanchez, D., & Gaither, S. (2018). Fluid racial presentation: Perceptions of contextual "passing" among biracial people. *Journal of Experimental Social Psychology*, 77, 132-142.
2. Leonard, Diana (2020), *Fraudulent or Fair: Moral Judgments of Racial Passing Vary Based on Passing Type and Perceiver Ideology*. Unpublished manuscript
3. Pyszczynski, T. (1999). A dual-process model of defense against conscious and unconscious death-related thoughts: An extension of terror management theory. *Psychological Review*, 106(4), 835-845