Advancing Intersectionality: 
Including Mixed-Race Perspectives within Campus Libraries

IDEAL Conference
August 2019

University of Michigan Library

Marna Clowney-Robinson, Access & Information Services Librarian
Jasmine Pawlicki, Onsite User Services & Outreach
Alex Rivera, Student Success & Community Engagement Librarian
Karen Downing, Education Librarian
Land Acknowledgement

On behalf of the original inhabitants of this land: the Erie, the Kickapoo, & the Shawnee;

And on behalf of those later inhabitants of this land: the Delaware, the Miami, the Odawa, the Mingo (Ohio Seneca), & the Wyandotte,

And those who are still waiting for recognition of their Indigenous Sovereignty on their own lands: Munsee Delaware Band of Ohio and the Shawnee Nation United Remnant Band,

I remind you that this is Indian Land.
Advancing Intersectionality: Today’s Agenda

● Importance of Social Identities
● Very Brief History of Interracialism
● Why is this important to Libraries?
  ○ Changing Demographics
  ○ Public Opinion
  ○ Publishing
  ○ Language & Access
● What can Libraries do?
● Our Stories: Panel Questions
● Thoughts/Questions/Discussion
“Race” is a social construct... (with life & death implications)
Mixing it Up: Importance of Social Identity

Social Identities Matter!

- Publishing Trends
- Marley Dias #1000blackgirlbooks
- Cultural Competency Building - we ALL need to understand potential needs of growing interracial populations!
Advancing Intersectionality: Your Stories
A Brief Introduction to Mixed Race and Indigenous Identity-U.S.

National Narratives & Cultural Myths
A Brief Introduction to Mixed Race and Indigenous Identity

Sexual Violence
Mixing as Strategy
Mixing as Survival
A Brief Introduction to Mixed Race and Indigenous Identity

- 1705 Indian Blood Law
- 1800’s-1900’s Blood Quantum & Treaty Annuities
- 1887 Dawes General Allotment Act
A Brief Introduction to Mixed Race and Indigenous Identity

Indian Citizen Act of 1924

1934 Indian Reorganization Act

Indian Termination Policy of the 1940’s -1960’s
Why Claiming Mixed doesn’t work for Native Americans:

- Political Identity based in Sovereignty, not a racial identity.
- Blood Quantum requirements put Native Americans in danger of extinction/being bred out.
  - U.S. government requires ¼ blood to be recognized and to receive services
  - Tribes self-determine tribal membership through blood quantum and/or lineal descent
Why Claiming Mixed doesn’t work for Native Americans:

5,220,579 One Race + Mixed Race Native American

vs.

2,932,248 One Race Native American

Native Americans % of population by U.S. state and Canadian province/territory

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Native American and Alaska Native (2010 Census Bureau)[1]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One race: 2,932,248 are registered</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In combination with one or more of the other races listed: 2,288,331</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total: 5,220,579 ~ 1.6% of the total U.S. population.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Advancing Intersectionality: Brief History

https://www.aclu.org/other/map-leadup-loving
Changing Demographics Interracial Marriage

- Since 1967, the percentage of newlyweds who are interracially married has grown from 3% to 17%
- Asian & Hispanic individuals, especially if U.S.-born, have highest likelihood of having married a spouse of another race in recent years

Population of Mixed Race Americans (U.S. Census data)

- Median age of multiracial population: 19.8 years*
  - Northeast: 20.7 years
  - Midwest: 17.3 years
  - South: 19.3 years
  - West: 21.1 years

- While 3.1% (American Community Survey, 2016, U.S. Census) may seem small, that represents almost 10 million people**

*U.S. Census Bureau. [https://www.census.gov/](https://www.census.gov/)

Mixing it Up: Public Opinion is Changing

Do you foresee a day in this country when interracial marriage will be accepted by most people as a matter of course or not? (Source: Harris Survey)

High Levels of Support for Interracial Marriage Among Millennials Across Race and Ethnicity

% of those who would be fine with a family member's marriage to someone of any other race/ethnicity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Whites</th>
<th>Blacks</th>
<th>Hispanics</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18-29</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30-49</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50-64</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65+</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>67</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Whites include only non-Hispanic whites. Blacks include only non-Hispanic blacks. Hispanics are of any race. Insufficient cases of Hispanics ages 50-64 and 65+ for analysis.
Publishing Trends: Emerging Scholars/Writers

ProQuest Dissertations and Theses
“Is the amalgamation of the races in contact to be regarded as an ideal? If so, there remains the problem of working out a technique by means of which some degree of harmony and good will can be established between the racial groups during which the period that mongrelization is in progress. Or would the infusion of ten per cent of Negro blood so materially lower the ideals and the intellectual and cultural capacity of the population as to cause the country to drop out of the group of culture nations? ...there is as yet no consensus of scholarly opinion; the problem has scarcely been attacked in a scholarly way.” (Reuter, 1918, p. 5)

http://hdl.handle.net/2027/uiuc.1465135_001
“Higher education has spent much time trying to understand the experiences of students from various single race backgrounds but have only just begun with multiracial college students. The factors that influence development and change in multiracial college students involve historical, cultural, social and political aspects of the college environment. Among the many areas yet to be explored is working to understand the interpersonal self-concept of multiracial college students. Interpersonal self-concept is defined for this study as how an individual conceives themselves in relation to others in a college environment.” (Kamimura, 2010, p. 4)
Language/Access: Why is this Important?

Why having some understanding of this history and populations is relevant to libraries:

- Understanding how history can impact users today (cultural context)
- Being respectful of intersectionality of identities (avoiding micro-aggressing or invalidation)
- Knowing how interracial information is classified in LC
- Language difficulties in accessing interracial information
- Changing language over time
- Social identity matters: seeing one’s self reflected in library collections, programs and staff
Examples of Words & Phrases Used to Describe Mixed-race People

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Biracial</th>
<th>Interracial</th>
<th>Multiracial</th>
<th>Mixed race</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mulatto</td>
<td>Quadroon</td>
<td>Octoroon</td>
<td>Hapa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eurasian</td>
<td>Creole</td>
<td>Metis</td>
<td>Mestizo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chindian</td>
<td>Redbones</td>
<td>Coloured</td>
<td>Half-breed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tri-racial Isolates (ie: Brass Ankles of S.C.)</td>
<td>Afro-Arab</td>
<td>We-sorts</td>
<td>Poly-ethnic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transracial</td>
<td>cross-racial</td>
<td>mixed</td>
<td>Amerasian</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Language/Access (cont’d)

Language Difficulties in Accessing Materials

● Synonyms
● Language changes over time
● Language changes from index to index
● Irrelevant results
● Difficulties Googling
  ○ Adult sites
Advancing Intersectionality: What Libraries Can Do
Advancing Intersectionality: What can libraries do?

- Collections
- Campus/Community Engagement and Programming
  - Integrate mixed-race content into existing programs
  - Encourage new programs that address mixed-race topics and/or actively recognizes the intersectionality of identities
Advancing Intersectionality: What can libraries do? (cont’d)

- Staff
  - Anti-bias training including mindfulness of unconscious bias and multiracial microaggressions
    - Exclusion or isolation
    - Assumption of mono-racial identity or mistaken identity
    - Denial of multiracial reality
  - Representation in physical spaces (photos, artwork, brochures, websites, etc.)
Advancing Intersectionality: Panel
Panel Questions:

1. Some people say multiracial people should identify as multiracial, others say you should only identify as one race. How do you identify now, and has that changed over time?

2. Has being multiracial impacted your view of your role in the Library? In the profession?

3. What would you like other library workers to know about being multiracial?
Resources

- The program model for “What Does it Mean to be Multiracial in a Monoracial World?” at ALA Public Program Office’s Programming Librarian

- Inclusive Teaching Resources and Strategies
  [http://www.crlt.umich.edu/multicultural-teaching/inclusive-teaching-strategies](http://www.crlt.umich.edu/multicultural-teaching/inclusive-teaching-strategies)
Advancing Intersectionality: A Few Resources


- Interracial Resources Research Guide [http://guides.lib.umich.edu/interracial](http://guides.lib.umich.edu/interracial)
Advancing Intersectionality: Final Thoughts

Marna Clowney-Robinson, clownm@umich.edu
Jasmine Pawlicki, pawlickj@umich.edu
Alexandra Rivera, alexriv@umich.edu
Helen Look, hlook@umich.edu
Darlene Nichols, dpn@umich.edu
Karen Downing, kdown@umich.edu