



Perceived Barriers to Black and Asian Solidarity: A Pilot Study of Internalized Racial Oppression and Perspective-Taking

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Abstract

Cross-racial solidarity between Asian and Black communities in the U.S. needs increased mutual understanding. Research has limited knowledge of intergroup relations and how these groups perceive each other. Research suggests that one barrier is internalized racial oppression (IRO), but doesn't consider IRO in intergroup contexts. This qualitative pilot study uses semi-structured interviews to identify patterns of themes related to intergroup IRO perspective-taking and perceived barriers to Black-Asian solidarity.

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Methods & Procedure

Definitions

- Internalized racial oppression (IRO): personalization of structural oppression by marginalized individuals (Pyke, 2015).
- Perspective-taking: when another's experience is actively taken into consideration (Todd et al., 2011).

Participant Recruitment

- Living in the U.S. and self-identifying as Black and/or Asian, broadly understood
- 6/26 interviews coded (3 Black; 3 Asian)
- 8 Q. individual semi-structured interviews

Findings & Supporting Data

- 👉 **#1: Specifies good influences on outgroup perception; ambiguous about bad influences.**
"I've never heard my friends say anything racist towards Asian people." "I've heard my parents say a couple things that I had to educate them about after." "I have a lot of Asian friends but when I heard about [anti-Black racist organization], I was more hesitant to show up for Asian solidarity." "It's like a chicken and egg [problem]."
- 👉 **#2: Racial homogeneity or sameness (tribalism).**
"I think that it's a matter of the groups kind of staying within themselves and not necessarily not mixing enough, not knowing each other." "Literally, we're in the same [Asian] friend group...but it's not like we intentionally avoid [Black people]...we're more surrounded by Asians." "A lot of tribalism."
- 👉 **#3 Familial influence and beliefs.**
"They were the only [Chinese] people...they had to stick together. It's just a solidarity." "Definitely with growing up, there has been a lot of anti-Blackness and a lot of white colorism and that has influenced my perception of Black people."
- 👉 **#4 Stop Asian Hate & Black Lives Matter are similar.**
"I think they're directly linked...that they share similar struggles and I really hope that the groups really fully understand that it's there." "Black Lives Matter was the framework for Stop Asian Hate." "I see some similarities." "I want to hope it's getting better."

Implications & Limitations

Implications

- Perspective-taking increased when participants were asked to think about the experiences of other groups. IRO could be re-theorized for intergroup dialogues and solidarity building initiatives.
- Inconclusive results for the influence of individual IRO on perspective-taking ability for outgroup.

Limitations

- Lack of diversity and/or underreporting of biases and experiences.
- Factors associated with a pilot study.

Recommendations

- Education about implicit biases may mitigate an individual's perceived barriers to solidarity.
- Future research should focus on increased applications of reducing implicit biases for anti-racism efforts (Ho, 2020).

Familial influence

- Supports research as greatest influencer of prejudice (Smith & Ross, 2003)
- Intergenerational racism (internal and external effects)

Homogeneity

- Discourages perspective-taking of outgroup
- Encourages groupthink (Sacheli et al., 2015)

Specifies good influence & ambiguous about bad

- Implicit bias emerged as a barrier to solidarity (Cikara et al., 2011)
- FI/H may exacerbate implicit bias

BLM/SAH are similar

- Undermines theories of perceived competition for limited resources (Ho, 2020)

