



Racialization, Racial /Ethnic Identity, and the Integration of Immigrants

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Message from the Guest Editor

Racial/ethnic identity formation is a dynamic process that evolves as individuals explore, engage with, and reflect on their racial and cultural heritage, traditions, values, and customs (Phinney, 1989). Social and historical factors such as the size and status of the racial/ethnic community, power dynamics, opportunities, limitations for different groups in society, etc., can influence identity construction and the racial/ethnic identification of groups and individuals. Ethnic identity development can be a perplexing process for immigrants and their offspring, who find themselves in a position of having to negotiate and harmoniously integrate the values, norms, customs, and practices of their ethnic culture with those of the dominant culture (Rotheram-Borus and Wyche, 1994). Furthermore, the racialization of some minorities due to political or economic crises or outbreaks of epidemics, construction of negative stereotypes, etc., can make racial/ethnic identity a source of exclusion and an identity crisis for immigrants and their offspring.





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