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THE CATEGORY BEING ME: A DIALOGUE BETWEEN RACE, CULTURE, AND
IDENTITY

By

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A capstone project submitted for Graduation with University Honors

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University Honors

University of California, Riverside

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ABSTRACT

This paper's goals are to foster a better understand of the feeling of alienation and confusion when it comes to cultural and social identity. This is done, through research and eventually in a set of interviews with members of the UCR student body. It's an opportunity to better understand the implications of cultural alienation and offer a platform for people to be heard. Originally I had started this project with hopes of creating new ways of defining identity but have found that not only does our language lack the dexterity to manifest the words necessary to effectively advance this ambition, but that there has not been enough discussion of this topic to adequately create new and wholesome definitions that embody the experience. While that admission remains evident, the goal of the project had remained unchanged, and it was quite successful in creating a space that allows for real conversations on race, culture, and identity. Realizing that the loss or confusion with identity due to cultural alienation is not a singular experience, but one that is shared by many, is beneficial and cathartic. These conversations, which may be unpopular in most culture specific communities, could continue to help those impacted to create a new identity and/or better understand their own as it is a celebration of who they are and who they could be.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

First and foremost, I would like to thank all my participants, but I want to give a special thank you to Heidi Aguilar, Tanisha Basrai, Magdaline May, Kamillah Pollard, Carlos Salmeron, and Raeven Ruiz for trusting me with their stories and for being troopers during this time of great distress. This project could not have come to fruition without them. I would like to thank Frederick Taylor for laying the foundation for the confidence I needed to even attempt to do a project of this scale. Last, but certainly not least, I would also like to thank my mentor Dr. Brown for supporting the vision I had for the project.

INTRODUCTION

Identity, both social and personal, is the qualities, beliefs, personality, and features that make a person. It is largely connected with the question: “Who are you?” and relates to our basic values that dictate the choices we make in the aspects of our lives and the way that we choose to live. However, it is rare that identities are chosen by people themselves, as they are often decided by dominant culture and social context. Since the categories of race and culture are so densely populated and acknowledged by everyone, they are often used as an identifier amongst society, in families, and oneself. However, because society demands we categorize ourselves in terms of other people and groups, there are often implications if ones’ “chosen” group/category rejects them, if for example, they lack knowledge of an important identifiers such as language, location, cultural knowledge, etc. This has redefined the question: “Who are you?” for people who are perceived differently from their own self determined categories and the ones they are supposed, “belong to”, hence the dilemma.

This project culminated in a miniseries where UCR students open a dialogue about the impact that their own experience with cultural alienation has had on the formation of their identity. Its focus on s set of interviews with the UCR student body can help people better understand the feeling of alienation and confusion when it comes to cultural and societal identity. The series has a total of six episodes that discuss how cultural alienation can lead to a disassociation from their identity in relation to society, family, and themselves. The focus is on those who feel disenfranchised by their own cultures and will reach across boundary lines by being inclusive to all people from varying racial backgrounds.

The set of interviews with members of the UCR student body are used to foster a better understanding of alienation from someone's identity when it comes to cultural, personal, and societal identity. The project features a six-episode series that consists of two-episode arcs with interview questions based off these distinct categories: family, society, and self. Since the UC Riverside campus hosts a diverse majority it is important to provide a platform to those who feel disenfranchised by their own cultural background. With each person sharing personal opinions and stories on the topic, it presents the opportunity for an open dialogue about a particularly sensitive subject matter which is unpopular in most culture specific communities, in hopes of helping them to better understand their own identity.

WHAT IS CULTURE?

Guest provides a comprehensive definition of culture, deeming it a “system of knowledge, beliefs, patterns of behavior, artifacts, and institutions that are created, learned, shared, and contested by a group of people” (35). Culture is, in essence, a guide, it includes norms, values, structures of power, mental maps of reality, and institutes a model for understanding and interacting with the world around us. For these reasons it is appropriate to classify culture as symbolic and material.

Culture is learned and taught through the process of enculturation that can be shared and contested. There are four main elements that can be applied to understand the complex nature of culture: (1) norms which are ideas or rules about how people should behave situations; (2) values which are the fundamental beliefs about what is important- cultural goals; (3) symbols which can be anything that represents something else like language or art; (4) mental maps of reality which are cultural classifications of what kinds of people and things exist and their meanings.

Culture is enforced, challenged, and structured in society, because of this culture and power- the ability or potential to bring about change through action or influence- share a sensitive relationship. Assumed meanings and mental maps can lead to a misunderstanding and disregard of other's cultures and identities.

WHAT IS IDENTITY?

The concept of identity has two very important theories that interact with each other to help a person to objectify and categorize themselves in relation to other social categories and classification. Burke and Stets conveys, "this process is called self-categorization in social identity theory; in identity theory it is called identification" (224) and that through this process an identity is formed. Since they are both used to formulate identity they have many similarities, however social identity is described as a "person's knowledge that [they] belong to a social category or group," while identity is reliant "among the class terms learned within a culture" (Burke & Stets 225). Furthermore, there is evidence that identity relates to salience and action in a collective as it relates to "the psychological significance of a group membership" (Burke & Stets 230). In this sense, salience can lead to a depersonalization- "when the self becomes and embodies the group or category" (Burke & Stets 231). From depersonalization stems movements and security, and intercedes with the personalization of identity, because the concept of belonging to a group fulfills a sense of meaning. Together, these theories determine status, community, and roles, along with influence personal or self-identification.

There is a strong sense of support and acceptance provided by membership and participation in group of interacting persons that makes the acceptance by others in the group a necessary factor. Because of this, "identities function as points of identification and attachment only because of their capacity to selectively exclude and include particular groups. Identity is

therefore tied to a sense of belonging” (Miller 72). This sense of belonging is diluted once a person is excluded from the group because of them not representing themselves or enacting the social roles that are recognizable within it. Hence why “social contexts, memberships, and interaction, as well as language use, ... frame identity work- the processes of identification with some and differentiation from others”- and are consequential in identity formation (Miller 74). A reassuring form of representation in a group is language because, according to John Edwards:

Language is a system, which implies regularity and rules of order. This system is an arbitrary one inasmuch as its particular units or elements have meaning only because of users’ agreement and convention. And language is used for communicative purposes by a group of people who constitute the speech or language community (53).

There is more to identity work than language, however, which reveals that identity is a consignment of variability and intersects with concepts of culture, race, ethnicity, and social class.

The study of identity and its many factors has been used to understand why cultural alienation impacts identity in a crucial way. Author Kevin Johnson explains his own search for identity in his *How Did you Get to be Mexican: A White/Brown Man’s Search for Identity*. While he does attempt to conceptualize his own existence and meaning in life, his novel reveals more than just an attempt to “find himself” as he responds to the rejection he has had to experience his whole life. His book reveals that alienation occurred most often due to others in his cultural category rejecting his claim to the culture, thereby ostracizing him. As he attempted to try to decipher the truth of his experiences, he came to the conclusion that his own physiological shortcomings, or his inability to properly represent or relate to the group because of the color of his skin led to him constantly having to prove himself and justify why he belongs in the category

he felt he had a claim to. These preconceived notions of him, I would even go as far to as to say stereotypes, made it so he never felt connected to the people that his ethnic/racial background deemed him to be a part of. Director Rita Hardiman reveals a white identity theory that impacts more than just white people. She depicts white identity as a category that people are forced into because society prefers it. As she covers the concepts of white identity, she introduces the topic of being “white-washed” in America, as people’s who do not partake in whiteness are nonetheless considered as such. These works prove that there remains a chasm for people who are alienated from their cultures and unable to fully identify in the categories that society would put them in.

METHODS

Participants

I first released a general questionnaire about the topic of cultural alienation to the UCR undergraduate population. I received 15 responses from undergraduates that responded in ways that correlated best with notion of cultural alienation, being the idea that alienation stems from all the main aspects of our lives- familial and social. The participants were all UCR undergraduates around the ages of 18-24, all of which identified with one or more cultures based off their own background.

Procedure

I developed a questionnaire with Google Survey that contained nine multiple choice questions and two optional fill-in-the-blank questions. The first question was used just to ensure that the participant filling out the questionnaire was an undergraduate. The questions that followed focused on questions that could be related to any person coming from all different types

of cultural, racial, or ethnic background, including giving the space for the participants to identify themselves.

After receiving written consent from my volunteers, I was able to begin the “face-to-face” interview portion¹. I conducted semi-structured web-based interviews using the results from the original questionnaire to guide the questions developed for the interview. These interviews are what constitutes the mini-web series that involved six volunteers from the original questionnaire. I created six episodes in total with two-episode arcs that are separated evenly through the categories of family, society, and the self. My interview style included utilizing Zoom’s “pin” to ensure that the participant was seen the entire time and only my voice asking the questions could be heard.

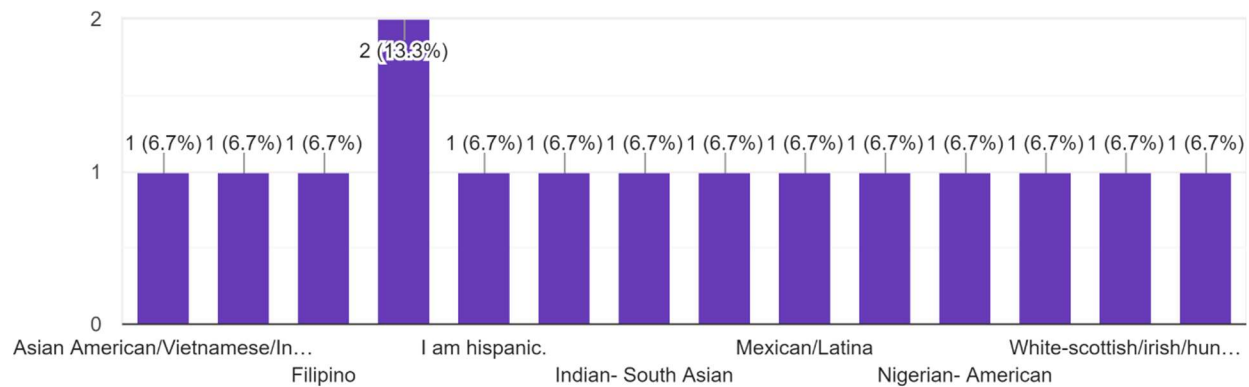
RESULTS

Questionnaire Results

The lasting effect that alienation from one’s own culture has on one’s own conceptualization of identity is notable as it can be theorized that culture makes us human, enabling us to evolve physically and in our patterns of relationships.

2. How do you identify racially & ethnically?

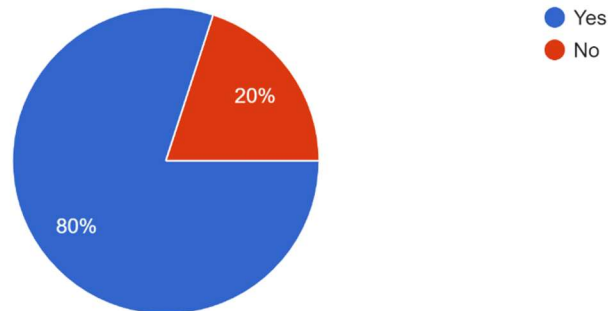
15 responses



This question allowed for all the participants to identify themselves and showed a wide range of diversity among the fifteen people that filled it out. The races/ ethnicities that the participants submitted were: (1) White-Scottish/ Irish/ Hungarian/German; (2) Mexican American; (3) Pacific Islander, Mexican, and Chinese; (4) Mexican/Latina; (5) Hispanic; (6) Indian- South Asian; (7) Black and Indonesian; (8) Nigerian- American; (9) Asian American/Vietnamese/Indian; (10) Mixed- Spanish, Japanese, Italian, Mexican, Columbian, and white; (11) Filipino; (12) White & American European. With certain races/ ethnicities being shared amongst participants.

3. Has your ethnic/racial background ever been assumed, doubted, or questioned by someone else?

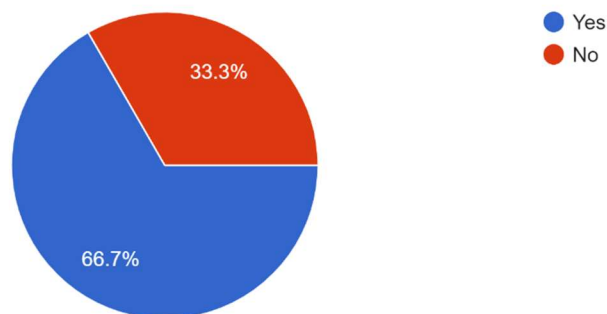
15 responses



In this chart depicted in red and blue, 80% of participants have had an experience where someone has assumed or doubted their ethnicity or race, while 20% (depicted in red) have never had this experience.

4. Have you ever been asked to provide evidence on how you identify? (**A YES Example: While stating your racial/ethnic background you were as...Or: Do you speak (insert associated language)?**)

15 responses

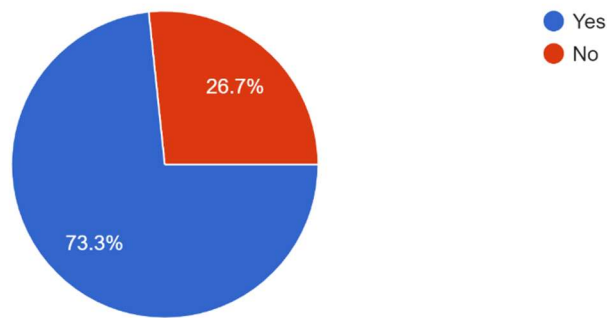


This chart reveals that 66.7% have experienced having to prove that they belong to the race/ethnicity they say they belong to while 33.3% have not been asked to provide evidence. Evidence meaning being asked personal questions of where they or their family members were born, being

asked if they speak the language associated with the culture, being asked where they got a certain phenotypic feature from, etc.

5. Have you ever been told some form of the following: You don't act (insert racial/ ethnic identity).

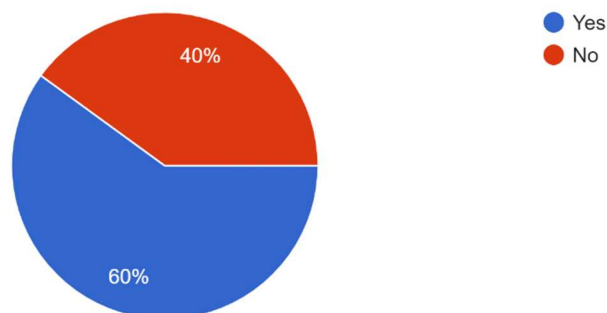
15 responses



Here it is depicted that 73.3% of participants have been told that they do not act in a certain manner that would make it obvious that they were a part of the culture they claim. This reveals that stereotyping constitutes whether they are believed to be a part of the category. 26.7% have stated to never having been told this statement.

6. Have you ever been told some form of the following: You're not (insert racial ethnic identity) enough.

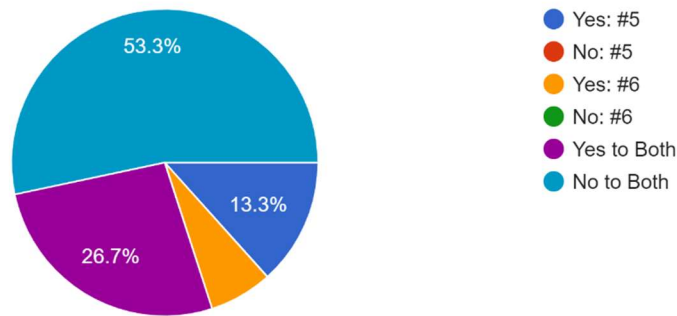
15 responses



In this chart 60% of participants have been told that they are not “enough” of their own culture, a distinct sign of alienation. 40% have never been told the following.

7. Have you ever been told either of those statements (#5 & #6) by a family member?

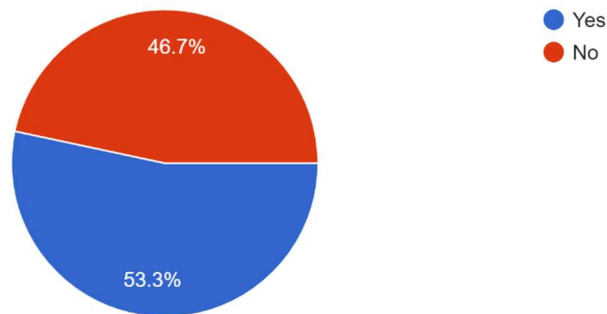
15 responses



This chart brings the former questions, #5 and #6 into relevance as it relates to the participant's family. Remember, #5 and #6 were questions of whether they have experienced someone making a direct statement towards the participant. Here we see that 53.3% of the participants have never been told these statements by a family member, but the other half have been told one of the two by family members with the statements revolving between not “acting” or being “enough” of their culture. This hereby reveals that cultural alienation and disconnect can stem from familial relations.

8. Do you have a strong connection with your identified race/ ethnicity?

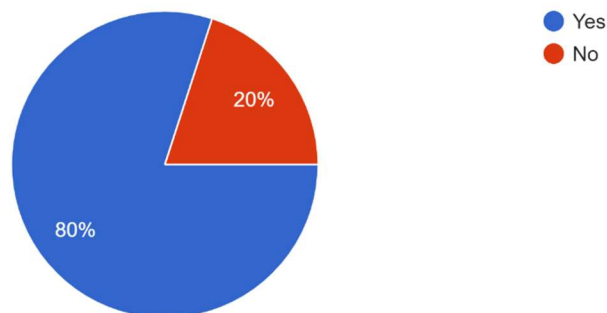
15 responses



Question #8 revealed that only 53.3% of participants felt a strong connection with their identified cultural background while 46.7% did not. Question #9 followed up on these results by asking participants to (optionally) expand on why they do or do not feel connected with their identified race/ethnicity².

10. Have you ever had an interaction with people who share the same racial/ethnic background which left you feeling alienated/ detached from your...ing different physical features, or where you live)

15 responses



This question focuses on the relationship that people have had with society where 80% of the participants have had an interaction with people from their own cultural background that left them feeling alienated, while 20% have never had such an interaction. Following this question

was an open opportunity for the participants to expand or explain any or all the questions they answered³.

Semi-Structured Interview

The interviews had additional questions that were based on the responses to the questionnaire and did not follow the rigid structure of the pre-written questions that were provided to the volunteers prior to the interview. As all volunteers were shown the question list I used before they entered the interview, they were prepared and expectant of some off-topic dialogue. One person had held the interview asynchronous, answering the questions provided to them while expanding where necessary.

- a. The five participants that partook in the synchronous zoom interview:

Heidi Aguilar⁴



Magdaline May⁵



Kamillah Pollard⁶



Raevan Ruiz⁷



Carlos Salmeron⁸



- b. The participant that partook in the asynchronous recording of their own interview:

Tanisha Basrai⁹



CONCLUSION

This miniseries¹⁰, involving members of the UCR student body, is based off interviews that are filmed in person. The set of volunteers are from a wide range of backgrounds, a factor that emphasizes the importance of gaining the perspective from everyone, meaning that anybody who wanted to participate in this series was welcome to. This six-episode series consists of two-episode arcs with interview questions based off family, society, and self. The questions were only used as a starting point for the volunteers and who were then allowed to take their answers in the direction they felt was appropriate. While I could have been satisfied with the result of the initial questionnaire, I knew that the use of video recording was vital as it put a face to the words that are spoken. As my research has showed, because we tend to identify ourselves in groups and areas, I knew creating a space where we can have open communication and visual representation was necessary.

I do not have any conclusion that can be grasped at this point, however, what I do have is proof. Proof of these emotions in society and proof that they are valid. We, my volunteers and I, did not resolve the issue of cultural alienation, but we were successful in beginning a dialogue about a sensitive topic, one that is not given nearly enough attention. The conversation alone, which is unpopular in most culture specific communities, can help those impacted to create a new identity and/or better understand their own. It is both a celebration of who you are and who you could be.

APPENDIX

1. The consent forms are attached in a PDF here: [Consent Forms](#)
2. Question #9 asked “Please explain your answer to #8” the answers varied but appear here:

My parents put a strong emphasis on which European countries our ancestors come from but hardly did anything culturally. Yeah I can make one Hungarian dish but that is about it.

I feel insecure about identifying with my Mexican culture because I can't speak Spanish, I am described as white by family and others, and doubted/questioned by myself and others due to my lack of experience and knowledge of my culture.

I am more connected to my islander way of living more than the other two ethnicities.

I am the first generation in my family to have not been born in Mexico, so my family aims to reinforce traditions in my life.

There are people with race/ethnicity that are successful but had a rough start and that gives me motivation that I can succeed as well.

I would say I have a somewhat strong connection. But I chose no because it could be better.

The connection lies within' my cultural music background, food, and wardrobe.

I often feel limited by my ethnicity due to the constricting cultural expectations that can come from it.

I definitely identify with my Black side moreover than my Asian side and have a better connection. However, I feel like I don't really understand my Asian side's culture because my mom immigrated when she was a child, so she was "Americanized." Even with my Black side I feel like because I've received so many comments about not looking or being Black enough, it's made me self-conscious about who I am as well as my Asian side.

I was born in Nigeria

There's lots of reasons why I don't really identify with my race -- being mixed, being born in America, my parents' attempts to assimilate us, etc. I think a major part of it was my parents, because of their diverse backgrounds, never really grounding us (me and my siblings) to either culture, so I knew about Tet and I ate Indian food, but I was never truly exposed to either side.

Growing up; there was a huge disconnect in culture. We were usually just "American" I guess.

My parents raised me to understand and appreciate the culture that they came from along with interweaving the American culture since I was raised here. I learned how to understand Tagalog and Kapampangan, though I am unable to speak it (fluently.) I also go to my parents' home country usually every other year, knowing how it is over there.

I'm pretty sure I have European on both sides of my family...

I want to say yes and no to number 8. I do feel like I have a strong connection to being Hispanic as I follow some of the traditions of being Mexican such as having a quinceañera and being raised Catholic. But I also feel like I am lacking many things as I feel I am much more whitewashed than Hispanic.

3. I also gave the questionnaire participants the opportunity to expand on any of the questions they wished to, here were the responses:

For #5 I was told by a friend that I didn't act like most white people. That just makes me so sad since the expectations for how white people treat POC is so low.

#10: My grandparents and father's side of the family communicate in Spanish, and I can't relate to my family in Mexico. My grandmother would tell me I'm not Mexican. My experiences are different from my grandparents.

I am unable to speak or understand Spanish and whenever I go to any Spanish households, I can't communicate. I was not raised around that side of my family.

Going off of number 2 and number 6, I am half Mexican and half Caucasian so that has caused a lot of strife and disconnect from my ethnicity and race as well as feelings of isolation.

Growing up in K-12, I was disrespected a lot because I did not appear nor grew up with culture of either side of my family. I had friends who were Filipino and Chinese who would isolate me because I wasn't "Asian enough" to understand and they would exclude me a lot from things. Coming into middle school, I had no idea what a lot of things were that were common for Black girls growing up or within Black culture. I didn't know how braid were installed, what edges were, I never saw certain movies or shows, etc. and I was often made fun of because I wasn't "cultured" or too naive. Some students would argue with me about whether I was Black or not, as if I had to do something to prove who I am. Even now it has made me very self-conscious about immersing myself in the Asian community in particular more so than the Black community. Because I am biracial, I know there are a lot of anti-blackness within the Asian community, and it makes me weary whether I will receive the same experiences as I did grow up being alienated for being Black or "not Asian enough" or the reverse where I am accepted because "I am not like other Black people" like it is a compliment. Of course, not everyone is like that who I have met in life and I can't pass judgement in that way, I still have friends who are Asian and feel no animosity or prejudice to me because of my race. However, it has made me more insecure of who I am to other people.

Kind of elaborating on 5/6, but mostly context: I haven't struggled too much with my racial/ethnic identity, but I've always wished I knew more. There is a feeling of inadequacy when I hang out around my Indian friends and they have all these inside jokes that I don't get, and I get uncomfortable at family gatherings sometimes because I don't speak Vietnamese and I don't know the customs that my fully Vietnamese cousins know, but it doesn't impact me on a day-to-day or even month-to-month level. I get passing feelings of wishing I was more cultured, but that's all it is: a passing feeling.

With number 10, I do feel alienated often as I have two close friends who are fully Mexican. Often times they speak in Spanish and when they remember that I am not that good at knowing Spanish they tend to translate themselves even though I do understand what they are saying. And other times they talk about some traditions they do with their family and I do not understand as my parents had raised her, so I feel like there is a disconnect.

4. Aguilar personal interview questions

The Category Being Me: A dialogue between race, culture, and identity.	
Interview Questions: Heidi Aguilar ** Some guidelines to keep in mind before you read the questions: <u>Face to Face Interview</u>** • These questions are for you to prep and gain an idea of the direction of the interview. • While I will be utilizing these questions in your interview, I will not be married to them. I have the privilege of interviewing you "face to face" so if you say something that I think constitutes another question then it will be asked. • This is a creative project for UCR Honors which means we are not prohibited by the same standards a research project (we have more freedom!). I want you to make this interview reflective of yourself so anything you feel you need to incorporate then please do so. You don't need permission from me. • The questions will be separated into 3 categories focusing on Society, Family, and Self Image. Questions General To start the interview, I will ask you to state your name and how you identify? Society 1. When your ethnicity/race is questioned: a. Do people ask you, "What are you?" b. Do people seem shocked when you tell them your ethnicity/race? c. How often does it happen? d. Are there any experiences, foods, places, words, etc. related to your culture that you will not do/ say because you do not want to feel judged? i. Can you explain what that judgement feels like when it comes from people within your culture? What about outside of it? Family 1. Does anyone in your family (immediate or external) live in/ originate from another country? 2. You indicated that a family member(s) has told you that you do not act Hispanic, why did they say that to you? a. How did that make you feel? Did it change the way you interacted with them? f. Have you ever tried to bring this up and if so what was the response you got? The rest of these questions related to family will be solely based on how much you want to say. 1	Self-Image 1. Do you question if you truly belong in the category that society puts you in? 2. Why do you think you backtrack when you describe your connection to your culture. **You said that you do feel like you have a strong connection to your Hispanic culture a statement that you followed with, "but". 3. Is there a difference between how society and your family make you feel about your identity? a. What is the difference? b. How do you feel their influence impacts your self-image? Does it change it or does it define it? 2

5. May personal interview questions

The Category Being Me: A dialogue between race, culture, and identity.	
Interview Questions ** Some guidelines to keep in mind before you read the questions: <u>Face to Face Interview</u>** • These questions are for you to prep and gain an idea of the direction of the interview. • While I will be utilizing these questions in your interview, I will not be married to them. I have the privilege of interviewing you "face to face" so if you say something that I think constitutes another question then it will be asked. • This is a creative project for UCR Honors which means we are not prohibited by the same standards a research project (we have more freedom!). I want you to make this interview reflective of yourself so anything you feel you need to incorporate then please do so. You don't need permission from me. • The questions will be separated into 3 categories focusing on Society, Family, and Self Image. Questions General To start the interview, I will ask you to state your name and how you identify? Society 1. When your ethnicity/race is questioned: a. Do people ask you, "What are you?" b. Do people seem shocked when you tell them your ethnicity/race? c. How often does it happen? d. Are there any experiences, foods, places, words, etc. related to your culture that you will not do/ say because you do not want to feel judged? i. Can you explain what that judgement feels like when it comes from people within your culture? What about outside of it? Family 1. Does your disconnect from your culture ever stem from your family. 2. You indicated that you were just American a. How did that make you feel? Did it change the way you interacted with them? f. Have you ever tried to bring this up and if so what was the response you got? The rest of these questions related to family will be solely based on how much you want to say. Self-Image 1. Do you question if you truly belong in the category that society puts you in? 2. Why do you think you backtrack when you describe your connection to your culture.	**You said that you do feel like you have a strong connection to your Hispanic culture a statement that you followed with, "but". 3. Is there a difference between how society and your family make you feel about your identity? a. What is the difference? b. How do you feel their influence impacts your self-image? Does it change it or does it define it? Interview Date: January 25 @ 2pm. Zoom Link: https://ucr.zoom.us/j/97430428446?pwd=YkdQeStmQmNlVnlTCm5Gd0MzcjkyOT09 OR Meeting ID: 974 3042 8446 Passcode: 995082

6. Pollard personal interview questions

The Category Being Me: A dialogue between race, culture, and identity.

Interview Questions

** Some guidelines to keep in mind before you read the questions: Asynchronous Interview **

1. These questions are for you to prep and gain an idea of the direction of the interview.
2. While I want you to utilize these questions in your interview, you do not have to be married to them. If you find yourself going another direction in the interview then go with it. Use these questions only when you are ready to move on to a different point or if you need to get back on track.
3. This is a creative project for UCR Honors which means we are not prohibited by the same standards as a research project (we have more freedom!). I want you to make this interview reflective of **YOU** so anything you feel you need to incorporate then please do so.
4. I tried to make these as accurate as I could. If you come to the end of my questions and feel like I missed the mark somewhere and have more to say then do so.
5. **Time Limit:** There is none! Take as much time as you need and I want to hear your story/ experience!
6. **Sending the File:** Please send the file over Google Drive. Google Drive can handle files of this size without corrupting them or compressing them to the point where it destroys the quality.

With all that out of the way, Let's Start the Interview!

Questions

General

To start the interview, I will ask you to state your name and how you identify?

Society- If you have any stories/ specifics please share them.

1. When your ethnicity/race is questioned:
 - a. Do people ask you, "What are you?"
 - b. Do people seem shocked when you tell them your ethnicity/race?
 - c. How often does it happen?
 - d. Are there any experiences, foods, places, words, etc. related to your culture that you will not do/ say because you do not want to feel judged?
 - i. Can you explain what that judgement feels like when it comes from people within your culture? What about outside of it?
2. Do people ever ask you to provide background evidence for your ethnicity?
 - a. How do those interactions normally go?

3. Talk about the interactions you've had with people that belong to the same cultural category as you that left you feeling alienated. (Kind of open ended but everyone has different experiences and I want you to share what you're comfortable with)
 - a. How are do people outside of your interact with you? How do people in the same cultural category as you treat you?
 - b. If language has any influence on your interactions please talk about that.

Family- If you have any stories/ specifics please share them.

1. How do feel about your parents never really grounding you in a culture?
2. Have you ever tried to have a conversation with them about assimilation? How did that go?
3. Do you and your siblings ever talk about cultural alienation? How do those conversations go?
4. The rest of this section relating to family will be solely based on how much you want to say.

Self- If you have any stories/ specifics please share them.

1. Do you question if you truly belong in the category that society puts you in?
2. What does being a part of your culture mean to you?
 - a. Is your definition enough to satisfy you, why do you think alienation occurs?
 - b. How does this alienation affect the way you see yourself?
 - c. Explain the passing feelings you hold for wishing you were more involved in your cultural category.
3. Why do you feel your isolated?
4. Is there a difference between how society and your family make you feel about your identity?
 - a. What is the difference?
 - b. How do you feel their influence impacts your self-image? Does it change it or does it define it?
5. If you could remove yourself from these categories of race and ethnicity how would you describe yourself?
6. What purpose do you think these categories hold in society, do they help your self-image or hurt it?

7. Ruiz personal interview questions

The Category Being Me: A dialogue between race, culture, and identity.

Interview Questions

** Some guidelines to keep in mind before you read the questions: Asynchronous Interview **

1. These questions are for you to prep and gain an idea of the direction of the interview.
2. While I want you to utilize these questions in your interview, you do not have to be married to them. If you find yourself going another direction in the interview then go with it. Use these questions only when you are ready to move on to a different point or if you need to get back on track.
3. This is a creative project for UCR Honors which means we are not prohibited by the same standards as a research project (we have more freedom!). I want you to make this interview reflective of **YOU** so anything you feel you need to incorporate then please do so.
4. I tried to make these as accurate as I could. If you come to the end of my questions and feel like I missed the mark somewhere and have more to say then do so.
5. **Time Limit:** There is none! Take as much time as you need and I want to hear your story/ experience!
6. **Sending the File:** Please send the file over Google Drive. Google Drive can handle files of this size without corrupting them or compressing them to the point where it destroys the quality.

With all that out of the way, Let's Start the Interview!

Questions

General

To start the interview, I will ask you to state your name and how you identify?

Society- If you have any stories/ specifics please share them.

1. When your ethnicity/race is questioned:
 - a. Do people ask you, "What are you?"
 - b. Do people seem shocked when you tell them your ethnicity/race?
 - c. How often does it happen?
 - d. Are there any experiences, foods, places, words, etc. related to your culture that you will not do/ say because you do not want to feel judged?
 - i. Can you explain what that judgement feels like when it comes from people within your culture? What about outside of it?
2. Do people ever ask you to provide background evidence for your ethnicity?
 - a. How do those interactions normally go?

3. Talk about the interactions you've had with people that belong to the same cultural category as you that left you feeling alienated. (Kind of open ended but everyone has different experiences and I want you to share what you're comfortable with)
 - a. How are do people outside of your interact with you? How do people in the same cultural category as you treat you?
 - b. If language has any influence on your interactions please talk about that.

Family- If you have any stories/ specifics please share them.

1. How do feel about your parents never really grounding you in a culture?
2. Have you ever tried to have a conversation with them about assimilation? How did that go?
3. Do you and your siblings ever talk about cultural alienation? How do those conversations go?
4. The rest of this section relating to family will be solely based on how much you want to say.

Self- If you have any stories/ specifics please share them.

1. Do you question if you truly belong in the category that society puts you in?
2. What does being a part of your culture mean to you?
 - a. Is your definition enough to satisfy you, why do you think alienation occurs?
 - b. How does this alienation affect the way you see yourself?
 - c. Explain the passing feelings you hold for wishing you were more involved in your cultural category.
3. Why do you feel your isolated?
4. Is there a difference between how society and your family make you feel about your identity?
 - a. What is the difference?
 - b. How do you feel their influence impacts your self-image? Does it change it or does it define it?
5. If you could remove yourself from these categories of race and ethnicity how would you describe yourself?
6. What purpose do you think these categories hold in society, do they help your self-image or hurt it?

8. Salmeron personal interview questions

The Category Being Me: A dialogue between race, culture, and identity. Interview Questions ** Some guidelines to keep in mind before you read the questions: <u>Asynchronous Interview</u>** 1. These questions are for you to prep and gain an idea of the direction of the interview. 2. While I want you to utilize these questions in your interview, you do not have to be married to them. If you find yourself going another direction in the interview then go with it. Use these questions only when you are ready to move on to a different point or if you need to get back on track. 3. This is a creative project for UCR Honors which means we are not prohibited by the same standards as a research project (we have more freedom!). I want you to make this interview reflective of YOU so anything you feel you need to incorporate then please do so. 4. I tried to make these as accurate as I could. If you come to the end of my questions and feel like I missed the mark somewhere and have more to say then do so. 5. Time Limit: There is none! Take as much time as you <u>need</u> and I want to hear your story/ experience! 6. Sending the File: Please send the file over Google Drive. Google Drive can handle files of this size without corrupting them or compressing them to the point where it destroys the quality. <u>With all that out of the way, Let's Start the Interview!</u> Questions General To start the interview, I will ask you to state your name and how you identify? Society- If you have any stories/ specifics please share them. 1. When your ethnicity/race is questioned: a. Do people ask you, "What are you?" b. Do people seem shocked when you tell them your ethnicity/race? c. How often does it happen? d. Are there any experiences, foods, places, words, etc. related to your culture that you will not do/ say because you do not want to feel judged? i. Can you explain what that judgement feels like when it comes from people within your culture? What about outside of it? 2. Do people ever ask you to provide background evidence for your ethnicity? a. How do those interactions normally go?	3. Talk about the interactions you've had with people that belong to the same cultural category as you that left you feeling alienated. (Kind of open ended but everyone has different experiences and I want you to share what you're comfortable with) a. How are do people outside of your interact with you? How do people in the same cultural category as you treat you? b. If language has any influence on your interactions please talk about that. Family- If you have any stories/ specifics please share them. 1. How do feel about your parents never really grounding you in a culture? 2. Have you ever tried to have a conversation with them about assimilation? How did that go? 3. Do you and your siblings ever talk about cultural alienation? How do those conversations go? 4. The rest of this section relating to family will be solely based on how much you want to say. Self- If you have any stories/ specifics please share them. 1. Do you question if you truly belong in the category that society puts you in? 2. What does <u>being</u> a part of your culture mean to you? a. Is your definition enough to satisfy you, why do you think alienation occurs? b. How does this alienation affect the way you see yourself? c. Explain the passing feelings you hold for wishing you were more involved in your cultural category. 3. Why do you feel your isolated? 4. Is there a difference between how society and your family make you feel about your identity? a. What is the difference? b. How do you feel their influence impacts your self-image? Does it change <u>it</u> or does it define it? 5. If you could remove yourself from these categories of race and ethnicity how would you describe yourself? 6. What purpose do you think these categories hold in society, do they help your self-image or hurt it?
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9. Basrai personal interview questions

The Category Being Me: A dialogue between race, culture, and identity. Interview Questions ** Some guidelines to keep in mind before you read the questions: <u>Asynchronous Interview</u>** 1. These questions are for you to prep and gain an idea of the direction of the interview. 2. While I want you to utilize these questions in your interview, you do not have to be married to them. If you find yourself going another direction in the interview then go with it. Use these questions only when you are ready to move on to a different point or if you need to get back on track. 3. This is a creative project for UCR Honors which means we are not prohibited by the same standards as a research project (we have more freedom!). I want you to make this interview reflective of YOU so anything you feel you need to incorporate then please do so. 4. I tried to make these as accurate as I could. If you come to the end of my questions and feel like I missed the mark somewhere and have more to say then do so. 5. Time Limit: There is none! Take as much time as you <u>need</u> and I want to hear your story/ experience! 6. Sending the File: Please send the file over Google Drive. Google Drive can handle files of this size without corrupting them or compressing them to the point where it destroys the quality. <u>With all that out of the way, Let's Start the Interview!</u> Questions General To start the interview, I will ask you to state your name and how you identify? Society- If you have any stories/ specifics please share them. 1. When your ethnicity/race is questioned: a. Do people ask you, "What are you?" b. Do people seem shocked when you tell them your ethnicity/race? c. How often does it happen? d. Are there any experiences, foods, places, words, etc. related to your culture that you will not do/ say because you do not want to feel judged? i. Can you explain what that judgement feels like when it comes from people within your culture? What about outside of it? 2. Do people ever ask you to provide background evidence for your ethnicity? a. How do those interactions normally go?	3. Talk about the interactions you've had with people that belong to the same cultural category as you that left you feeling alienated. (Kind of open ended but everyone has different experiences and I want you to share what you're comfortable with) a. How are do people outside of your interact with you? How do people in the same cultural category as you treat you? b. If language has any influence on your interactions please talk about that. Family- If you have any stories/ specifics please share them. 1. How do feel about your parents never really grounding you in a culture? 2. Have you ever tried to have a conversation with them about assimilation? How did that go? 3. Do you and your siblings ever talk about cultural alienation? How do those conversations go? 4. The rest of this section relating to family will be solely based on how much you want to say. Self- If you have any stories/ specifics please share them. 1. Do you question if you truly belong in the category that society puts you in? 2. What does <u>being</u> a part of your culture mean to you? a. Is your definition enough to satisfy you, why do you think alienation occurs? b. How does this alienation affect the way you see yourself? c. Explain the passing feelings you hold for wishing you were more involved in your cultural category. 3. Why do you feel your isolated? 4. Is there a difference between how society and your family make you feel about your identity? a. What is the difference? b. How do you feel their influence impacts your self-image? Does it change <u>it</u> or does it define it? 5. If you could remove yourself from these categories of race and ethnicity how would you describe yourself? 6. What purpose do you think these categories hold in society, do they help your self-image or hurt it?
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10. YouTube Mini-Series can be found here: [The Category Being Me: A dialogue between race, culture, and identity - YouTube](#)

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