

Socialization and Parenting in Underrepresented Families: A Commentary on this Special Issue
Section
Undergraduate Article Critique
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Cooper (2022) writes about navigating parenting in racialized families. The author covers the topics of attention to diverse family and social contexts to inform about socialization and biased messages. Developmental context in the lives of each family members (still) matters in order to discuss cognitive and developmental differences, dynamicity and transaction for preparation without fear, and inclusion of fathers' perspectives and attention to their parenting contributions within the racialized families because they are underrepresented. It talks about arming children with the proper tools to deal with stressors and awareness of them to help the children use those tools to navigate life. This is to help in the experience and promotion of positive development.

One thing that I learned, and I thought was very interesting is that one in four adoptions creates a transracial family. This creates an interesting dynamic where parents from a different race will have to help their child develop by explaining racialization to a child of a different race without experiencing that racialization themselves. Another point was that racialized children experience receiving different discipline in school which starts early and will begin to change and shape their development. Children who grow up in a home that is a racialized nuclear family will often experience similar experiences as their parents because the parent's experience will shape and mold the experience of the child just from hearing and learning about it. The last point that stands out is the underrepresented fathers in racialized families. This causes a lot of developmental disparities and challenges for children, so this is an important piece that needs to be considered and changed for the child's benefit.

The last point in the previous paragraph goes into the concept that dual parental households usually promote more successful development of children. This can be performance as children and later in life as parents themselves as well as their education and careers. Single parent households are at a disadvantage because the adult usually needs to work more contributing to less emotional and physical connection with the child. Adoption into a separate racial family will further complicate problems. There are developmental problems with the child when there is adoption because of the disrupted connection between parent and infant. They don't receive enough nurturing when they are in the foster care system. There also seems to be some barrier between children who adopted and their parents because they aren't related in the normal way. It complicates the relationship and often times will make the child question things around them.

This article related to the overall scope of Child Development and Family Studies because it focuses solely on the development of children in racialized families and children who are adopted. So, this directly relates to both categories. This can be used by parents to help their child develop more efficiently and help families navigate the unknown with multiracial families.

Reference

Cooper, S. M. (2022). Socialization and parenting in underrepresented families: A commentary on this Special Issue Section. *Family Relations*, 71(5), 1973–1976. <https://doi.org/10.1111/fare.12797>