

Mexican American Children's Ethnic Pride and Internalized Racism

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Occasional Paper No. 41

February 1999

ABSTRACT

This paper describes results from interviews with Mexican American children in grades 2-12 and interviews with their parents about their developmental model (ethnic perspective-talking ability). It focuses on children's responses to questions about ethnic pride (why someone would not like being Mexican American) and internalized racism (why they like being Mexican American). The research suggested four developmental levels in their responses to these questions (physical, literal, social, and group perspectives). These interview responses will be compared to similar interviews conducted with African American children, children from two different racial groups in Guatemala, and international children born in Latin America and living in the U.S.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Steve Quintana was born and raised in Denver, Colo., and graduated from Carleton College in Minnesota with a B.A. in Psychology in 1983. He earned his Ph.D. in Counseling Psychology in 1989 from the University of Notre Dame and taught at the University of Texas-Austin in the Department of Educational Psychology from 1988-1995. He received a Ford Foundation Fellowship for research investigating Mexican-American children's understanding of ethnicity in Texas and Arizona; Martha Bernal was his mentor for this project and fellowship. Dr. Quintana is now at University of Wisconsin-Madison as an Associate Professor in the Departments of Counseling Psychology and Educational Psychology (joint appointment). His current research is developing and evaluating a model of children's understanding of social status, which includes ethnicity, race, gender, nationality, and social class.