

Reality Check: Debunking the Perceptions of Post-Racialism in the United States Today

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Research Question

How does racial identification impact the perception of racial inequality?

Hypothesis

White respondents will perceive less racial inequality (due to discrimination) than **Black** respondents

Project Overview

The 44th President of the United States appeared to be the cure to the nation's **racial stratification**, and his terms of office did mark racial progress; however, it neglected to erase all of the historical underpinnings that preceded his monumental leadership. I aim to argue that the prevalence of racism still exists despite the **colorblind rhetoric** and "**dog whistle politics**" of the present time. I will assess the key tenets of the post-racial society that many politicians aim to enact as well as the various forms of racism that exist. Not only will my research illustrate the present dynamics of racial discrimination, but it will also critically analyze the forms of racism that were present during the Jim Crow Era and beyond, connecting them to modern society. Through this research, I hope to demystify the experiences of marginalized communities that are subjected to the negativity associated with racism, and provide tangible examples for policy analysts and makers to execute change.

Variables

Independent Variable

• Race of Respondent

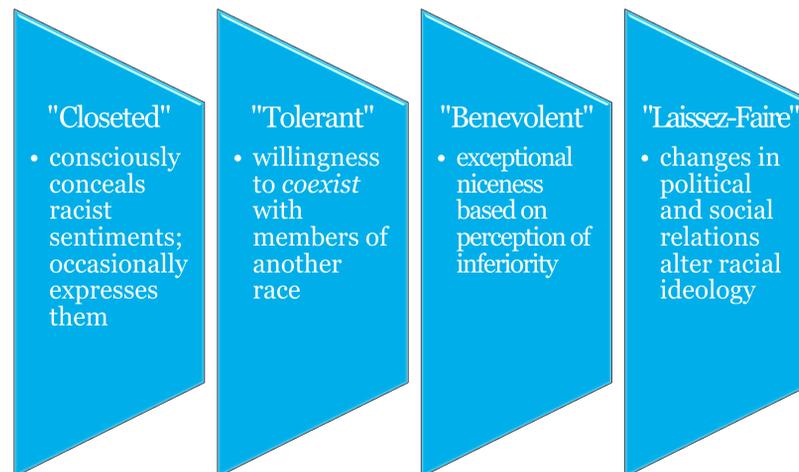
Dependent Variable

• Perception of Racial Inequality due to Discrimination

Black-White Dichotomy



Expansion of Racism



Did President Obama End Racism?

- The Post-Racial Era is characterized by attitudes that racial categories are non-existent or insignificant
- Post-racialism is a manifestation of colorblindness
- President Obama's election served as a marker for the peak of racial progress



Theory

- **Social Identity Theory**
 - explains cognitive and motivational processes for intergroup discrimination
 - explains historical, cultural, political, and economic context that defines a group and status
- **Social Desirability**
 - Whites have learned to give normative responses to avoid shaming or being called racist, which could cause discrepancies in the data

Findings

Locating the source of inequality: Cross-Tabulation of race & discrimination

		Perception of Inequality Due to Discrimination		TOTAL:
		Yes	No	
Race of Respondent	White	35%	65%	100%
	Black	65%	35%	100%

- Literature suggests that whites are becoming more aware of the role of stereotypes and discrimination
- **Cross-Tabulation**
 - Predicted that whites do not blame racial inequality on discrimination
- **Independent Sample T-Test**
 - Confirmed research hypothesis
 - Difference in means for "yes" responses due to race differences
 - Difference of means was statistically significant

Conclusion

- Whites **do not** view discrimination as a cause of inequality
- Blacks **do** view discrimination as a cause of inequality
- Government and population need to address historical and institutional conditions of racism that continue to exist