

Differences in Collective Identity and Self-Esteem, Perceived similarity and discrimination and well-being between Whites and Half-Castes in Chile

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Objetive

To examine the differences in collective identity and self-esteem, ideology, perceived similarity and discrimination, Janoff-Bulman dimensions and well-being between those who identify themselves as Half-Castes and Whites in Chile.

Sample

270 students of Degree in Psychology from 4 Chilean regions (2nd, 5th, 9th and Metropolitan regions).
Data was collected in 2004.
The mean age of the participants was 21.84 (SD= 5.17) years; 56,7% were Half-Castes and 65.4% were women.

Measures

Group membership. 1 item.
Ethnic Identity (Valk & Karu, 2001) (related to group membership). 20 items. Range: "I strongly disagree" – 7 "I strongly agree".
Ethnic pride and belonging
Ethnic differentiation
Ethnic frustration . 5 items. Range: "I strongly disagree" – 7 "I strongly agree"
Group efficacy/Fraternal resentment/
Stability/Legitimacy/Permeability
Identification with geographical groups
4 items. Range: 1 "not at all" – 5 "very much"
Collective Self-esteem (Chilean). 4 items.
Ideology. 1 item. Range: 0 "extreme left" – 10 "extreme right".
Social Dominance Orientation Scale (Sidanius & Pratto, 1993). 16 items.

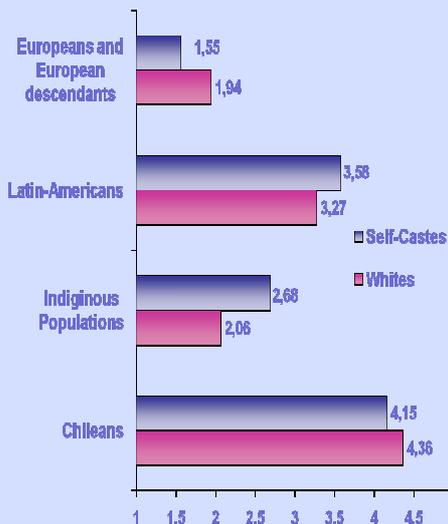
Range: 1 "I strongly disagree" – 7 "I strongly agree".
Perceived Similarity with people from the country. 1 item. Range: 1 "not at all" – 5 "very much".
Perceived Discrimination. 1 item. Range: 1 "not at all" – 5 "very much"
World Assumptions Scale. (Janoff-Bulman, 1992). 16 items. Range: 1 "never" – 4 "always".
Benevolence of the world
Meaningfulness of the world
Worthiness of self
Perceived Control. 1 item. Range: 1 "not at all" – 10 "very much".
Interpersonal Confidence (Yamagishi & Yamagishi, 1994). 3 items. Range: 1 "I strongly disagree" – 5 "I strongly agree".
Satisfaction with life. 1 item. Range: 1 "not at all" – 10 "very much".

Results

There were no significant differences between Half-Castes and Whites neither in Chilean collective self-esteem, nor in ethnic pride and belonging identification with North Americans and North Americans descendants, similarity with people from the country they live, perceived control and interpersonal confidence. Dimensions of Benevolence and World sense of Janoff-Bulman did not make a difference between both groups.

Identification with Chileans were positively correlated with ethnic proud and belonging and Chilean collective self-esteem ($r(284)=.20$, $p \leq .001$; $r(284)=.20$, $p \leq .001$; respectively) as well as identification with Europeans ($r(284)=.16$, $p \leq .05$; $r(284)=.12$, $p \leq .05$; respectively). Identification with Indigenous population was related to ethnic proud and belonging ($r(284)=.11$, $p \leq .05$) whereas identification with North Americans was associated to collective self-esteem ($r(284)=.17$, $p \leq .05$). There were not significant correlations between identification with Latin-Americans and these two variables.

Picture 1. Identification



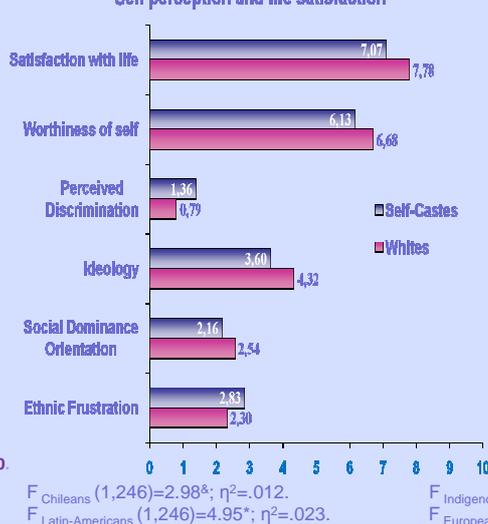
Half-Castes reported more identification with Indigenous populations and Latin-Americans whereas Whites reported more identification with Chileans and Europeans and European descendants. There were no significant differences in identification with North Americans.

*** $p \leq .001$; ** $p \leq .01$; * $p \leq .05$; & $p \leq .10$.

$F_{Frustration} (1,253)=4.34^*$; $\eta^2=.017$. $F_{SDO} (1,253)=6.30^{**}$; $\eta^2=.025$.
 $F_{Ideology} (1,253)=7.64^{**}$; $\eta^2=.030$. $F_{Discrimination} (1,253)=5.81^*$; $\eta^2=.023$.
 $F_{Worthiness} (1,253)=9.19^{***}$; $\eta^2=.035$. $F_{Satisfaction} (1,253)=7.95^{***}$; $\eta^2=.031$.

Picture 2. Ethnic

frustration, SDO, Ideology, Perceived discrimination
Self perception and life satisfaction



Whites reported being more rightists and tending to favor more hierarchy-enhancing ideologies and policies. Whites, also showed more positive believes about themselves and higher satisfaction with life.

On the contrary, Half-Castes reported more ethnic frustration and perceived discrimination.

$F_{Chileans} (1,246)=2.98^{\#}$; $\eta^2=.012$. $F_{Indigenous} (1,246)=19.24^{***}$;
 $F_{Latin-Americans} (1,246)=4.95^*$; $\eta^2=.023$. $F_{Europeans} (1,246)=9.70^{***}$; $\eta^2=.038$.

All punctuations have been standardized on a range from 0 to 10.

Conclusions

Researchers commonly agree that a persistent negation of mix-races and Indigenous populations has taken place through Chilean history, where simulation (whitening) appears as one of the obvious attitudes of Half-Castes (Montecinos, 2005). In this sense, the results above exposed depict that self-identification as Half-Castes entail higher acceptance of their origin and the Chilean mix-races and indigenous reality, as well as perceived discrimination and frustration when considering social reality of their group. In contrast, identification with Whites is related to higher identification with Europeans, to favour more conservative and hierarchy-enhancing ideologies and policies and to report more positive believes about themselves.