

# When Identity Becomes Political: Racial Identity Activation and Political Alignment Among Multiracial Americans

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*A proposed randomized survey experiment testing identity activation as a situational causal mechanism rather than treating multiracial identity only as a fixed demographic category.*

## QUESTION AND THEORY

Would temporarily activating different dimensions of racial identity change political attitudes among multiracial adults? Activation is distinguished from group membership, stable identity strength, and self-expression.

## COMPETING HYPOTHESES

- Minority solidarity
- Assimilative alignment with dominant-group norms
- An emergent multiracial political orientation

## PROPOSED DESIGN

The planned sample is 1,200 adults who identify as White and at least one non-White race, randomly assigned to a minority-identity prime, a White-identity prime, or a neutral control.

## MEASURES AND ANALYSIS PLAN

Planned outcomes include linked fate, group closeness, racial resentment, policy preferences, partisan identity, and affective evaluations. OLS with robust errors, standardized indices, balance and manipulation checks, covariates, and heterogeneous-effect tests would estimate treatment effects.

## THEORETICAL CONTRIBUTION

The design specifies identity activation as a testable causal mechanism and asks whether context changes the political meaning of multiple racial attachments.

## LIMITS

Prime strength and demand effects could threaten inference. A short treatment cannot establish durable real-world change, and the narrowed White and non-White multiracial sample limits generalizability.

**PORTFOLIO NOTE** Proposed design only. No respondents were recruited, no data were collected, and no empirical results are claimed.