RACIAL IDENTITY ATTITUDES AS PREDICTORS OF SELF-REPORTED MOTIVES FOR PERSONS WHO WERE INVOLVED IN OR WHO WERE WILLING TO CONSIDER INVOLVEMENT IN INTERRACIAL COUPLE RELATIONSHIPS (128 pp.)

Director of Dissertation: Anita P. Jackson

Recent research (Parham & Helms, 1992) on racial identity attitudes suggests its influence on interracial relationships. The purpose of this study was to examine the relationship between stages of racial identity attitudes, as measured by the Black Racial Identity Attitude Scale, White Racial Identity Attitude Scale and self-reported motives for individuals involved in—or who were willing to consider involvement in—interracial couple relationships as measured by the Summated Rating Scale of Self-Reported Motives.

The study examined literature that discussed various theoretical viewpoints regarding motives of persons who may become involved in interracial couple relationships despite risking negative reactions from U.S. society. A summated rating scale of reported motives was developed based on these theoretical viewpoints. Through a series of multiple regression analyses, the relationship between a person's racial identity attitudes and self-reported motives were explored. Findings minimally supported the existence of a relationship between racial identity attitudes and self-reported motives. Implications for researchers and the public at large were discussed.