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Who Gives the Cookies and Who Gets the Grade: Children's Judgements on Intersecting Identities

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ABSTRACT

The Stereotype Content Model (SCM) suggests that group stereotypes are reflect differences in warmth and competence. (Fisk et al. 2001). Many studies primarily use White men as a baseline for understanding these judgements of race and gender without combining these identities. We aim to examine how children assess individuals from various race and gender groups. Participants included 90 children ranging from age 5-10. Children were asked to rate individuals with different identities (e.g., White man, Black woman, etc.) on the dimensions of warmth and competence. Children were then asked to compare individuals with different identities and determine which person was “nice” and which one was “smart.” A repeated measures ANOVA showed no significant differences across age groups. Results showed a significant interaction between target race and target gender for warmth. This interaction was primarily because children rated Asian men as less warm than Asian women, Black men, and White men. There was also a significant interaction between target race and target gender for competence, where children rated White women as less competent than White men. Children most frequently chose Asian men as smart and Asian women as nice, a finding that replicated prior findings in SCM literature. These findings suggest that children make different judgements about people with different identities, especially Asian people. However, these results show different patterns of responses depending on specific gender and racial combinations, suggesting intersectionality – the way that combining multiple identities changes how we think about people – should be considered in future studies.
