Prior theory work suggests that affect (e.g., feelings) and cognition (e.g., thoughts) in EI and biculturalism (Bicultural Comfort & Bicultural Advantages) among US Latinx youth. Current Study

Prior work suggests that when youth are in inhibiting environments (e.g., racism and discrimination), they may not develop biculturalism (Gusman et al., 2023).

How Microaggressions, Ethnic Identity (EI), and Biculturalism Co-Occur

Prior work suggests that affect (e.g., feelings) and cognition (e.g., thoughts) in EI and biculturalism may differentially affect due to racial experiences (Garcia Coll et al., 1996).

• Affect in EI, such as affirmation (feelings toward our ethnic group), but not cognition, such as resolution (certainty about our ethnic group), has been found to be lower for youth who are perceived by others as less Latinx appearing (Gonzales-Backen & Umana-Taylor, 2011).

• Prior work suggests that when youth are in inhibiting environments (e.g., racism and discrimination), they may not develop biculturalism (Gusman et al., 2023).

• It is important to highlight how youths feel and think about race, ethnicity, and culture during adolescence when they have increased social-cognitive maturity to negotiate and internalize such experiences (Umana-Taylor et al., 2014), especially for US Latinx youth who have racialized experiences relating to their ethnicity and culture (Martinez & Gonzalez, 2021).

Current Study

Scant research has examined how youth feel and think about EI and biculturalism within the context of racial invalidation or overemphasis via microaggressions (Garcia Coll et al., 1996, Huynh, 2012). Thus, we used a person-centered approach to configure microaggressions (Denial of Racial Reality & Emphasis on Differences), EI (Affirmation & Resolution), and biculturalism (Bicultural Comfort & Bicultural Advantages) among US Latinx youth.

• We explored whether microaggressions, where youth are seen as inherently different by race (emphasis on differences) by others, also co-occurred with lower biculturalism across affect (feeling comfort) and cognition (perceiving advantages; Basilio et al., 2014).

• We explored whether microaggressions, where youth experience invalidation about racial experiences (denial of racial reality), also co-occurred with lower affirmation.

Results

Profile Highlights

1. High EI & Biculturalism, Rare Microaggressions (n = 167; 72.6%): Youth had the fewest microaggressions and highest EI and bicultural comfort.

• Promotive environments are most conducive to EI and biculturalism (Garcia Coll et al., 1996; Gusman et al., 2023).

2. High EI Affirmation & Moderate-High EI Resolution, Moderate-High Biculturalism, Few Microaggressions (n = 79; 37.5%): Youth had the second-fewest microaggressions and high EI resolution, EI affirmation, and high and lower bicultural comfort.

• Event few microaggressions co-occur with positive, but less clear EI and moderate biculturalism (Garcia Coll et al., 1996).

3. High EI & Moderate-High Biculturalism, Frequent Denial Microaggressions (n = 40; 17.4%): Youth faced the most denial of racial reality microaggressions, high reports of EI, and lower bicultural comfort.

• You may have felt rather positively about EI and biculturalism because they saw racism relating to US racial categories (e.g., white, black), not their racial categories (i.e., pan-ethnic, national origin; Martinez & Gonzalez, 2021).

4. Moderate EI Affirmation & High EI Resolution, High Biculturalism, Frequent Difference Microaggressions (n = 4; 1.7%): Youth faced the most emphasis on differences microaggressions, had the lowest EI affirmation, and second-highest bicultural comfort.

• You felt negative about their EI when treated as racial others or foreigners; perhaps youths’ EI became a reminder of their minoritized status in the US (Garcia Coll et al., 1996).

• In line with theory and qualitative work, biculturalism is complex: positive with underlying negative EI aspects (Garcia Coll et al., 1996; McCarty et al., 2023; McKenzie et al., 2023).

Implications

• Our findings elucidate nuanced affect and cognition in EI and biculturalism across differing microaggressions suggesting the importance of researching multiple, related concepts for youths of color (Garcia Coll et al., 1996).

Limitations and Future Directions

• Our analyses were cross-sectional; future work should examine developmental trajectories of youth’s EI and biculturalism within the context of microaggressions and their joint influence on youths’ adjustment.

• Future work should include structural and sociodemographic variables (e.g., structural discrimination, skin tone, phenotype) to highlight the diversity of Latinx youth and their contexts.