

Racism: It's not a Black and White Issue: A study into the unconscious prejudice embedded within Australia's 'egalitarian' society that accepts Aboriginal identity

The irony is evident. We incessantly refer to our nation as an egalitarian society, yet continually differentiate individuals through aspects of their cultural and ethnic identity. Our nation's identity as a whole encompasses this worldview. Throughout media and politics we are constantly met with this nostalgia of a multicultural all-inclusive realm- so why do we subconsciously ignore the stereotypes and racist insinuations that surround our everyday lives?

Aboriginality, in this sense, has always been recognised as the minority through the increased power and authority of the dominant culture. This is hard for people of a white majority nation to recognise. Society is ignorant to the cultural facade they wear which prevents them from understanding or appreciating any culture other than their own.

How does one extinguish these unconscious biases? What does the future hold for racism in Australia and how can our nation collectively eliminate biases or prejudices towards Aboriginal Australians? How are we able to achieve understanding when there is a power dichotomy manifest in a prevailing dominant culture society?

Throughout the journey of my PIP I have found that there is no real truth outside society and culture. The genuine community engagement through the micro world is the catalyst for any aspect of change in society as the continuity of racism will always be prevalent. The reassurance that we are “tolerant” is a dangerous concept, evident in unconscious and covert racist sentiments. By recognising these casual undercurrents one can affectively alter their worldview. I believe I have achieved a greater awareness of both personal and social identity throughout the journey of my PIP as well as an ingrained understanding of the interactive importance of continuity and change in determining social acceptance for the future. I hope that the issues explored throughout my PIP have become more than just information about cultures and communities, but an inherent realisation and recognition of prejudices we might possess through unconscious subordination of a minority.

My journey of social and cultural literacy has been demanding yet compelling. It is a pertinent journey that I believe has conjured a sense of balance and rationality through my developing cultural worldview. This became the rationale behind my PIP as I synthesised both personal experience and public knowledge of the micro and macro worlds. My PIP has given me a cross-cultural insight into a worldview other than my own and has enabled me to discover how inequality is manifest through the convoluted and misunderstandings of divergent paradigms.

However I recognise that there are still numerous minorities affected by racism in Australian society and I have only delved into one of these areas. I believe that through the deconstruction of what constitutes prejudice and the recognition of biases I may possess, my PIP has enabled me to identify these in other cultures that may be subject of a racial dichotomy in society. The dominant culture ideology that manifests racial disparities has undoubtedly led to the perpetuation of bigotry and prejudice against divergent cultures.

I have become enthralled in my PIP topic. The journey of social and cultural literacy I have undergone has led me to recognise the progression of subtle, naïve and unconscious racism within society. Casual racist insinuations that would have previously gone unrecognised by myself are now foregrounded and pinpointed in my everyday life. Thus, I assert that through the acknowledgement of unconscious prejudices, one is able to grow conscious of their own and put an end to the percolating issue that I believe is continuing to perpetuate within our “egalitarian” society.