MULTIRACIAL IDENTITY IN SINGAPORE

STATEMENT OF RESEARCH PROJECT

True to Singapore's laudable melting pot nature, a hidden demographic in Singapore that epitomizes diversity has been growing steadily – the multiracial population. To date, interracial marriages have been becoming more commonplace, where one in every five marriages are interracial. The union between two racial and cultural identities, however, may come as a cost to multiracial individuals as it is unclear how others categorize them and what daily assumptions, such as the individual's preferred language, others should make to ease the social interaction.

The proposed research project will be among the first to investigate racial categorization in Singaporeans and will target three objectives. First, we aim to investigate the underlying psychological mechanism of racial categorization in monoracial Singaporeans as well as multiracial Singaporeans, across a lifespan. Second, our project will examine how this ability, racial categorization, interacts with racial familiarity. Finally, our third objective is to disentangle the effects of perceptual features and social status on racial categorization. Our specific research questions, thus, include:

1. Are Singaporeans more cognitively flexible when categorizing "ambiguous" racial categories than previously tested populations? Does this flexibility depend on racial category familiarity? and
2. How do Singaporeans view "ambiguous" racial categories? Do they form racial categories based on perceptual features or do they form racial categories based on social status? Does racial categorization depend on their familiarity of the racial category?

SCOPE OF WORK FOR SELECTED PHD STUDENT

The graduate student is expected to partake in all aspects of the scientific process. Responsibilities include, but are not limited to: becoming familiar with the literature, creating stimuli, recruiting participants, training and mentoring undergraduate research assistants, collecting, and analysing data, disseminating research findings, and preparing manuscripts for publication.

Further, we expect to implement interventions to promote the well-being of multiracial individuals as well as help ease their social integration. With the Supervisor and Co-Supervisor, the PhD student is expected contribute to the development, testing, and integration of an evidence-based intervention and social integration policy. Apart from their scientific responsibilities, the graduate student is expected to engage themselves in coursework, pedagogy, and academic conferences to build their resume for future job prospects.