An Overview

Dr. Abigail A. Sewell

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How Does Race Function?

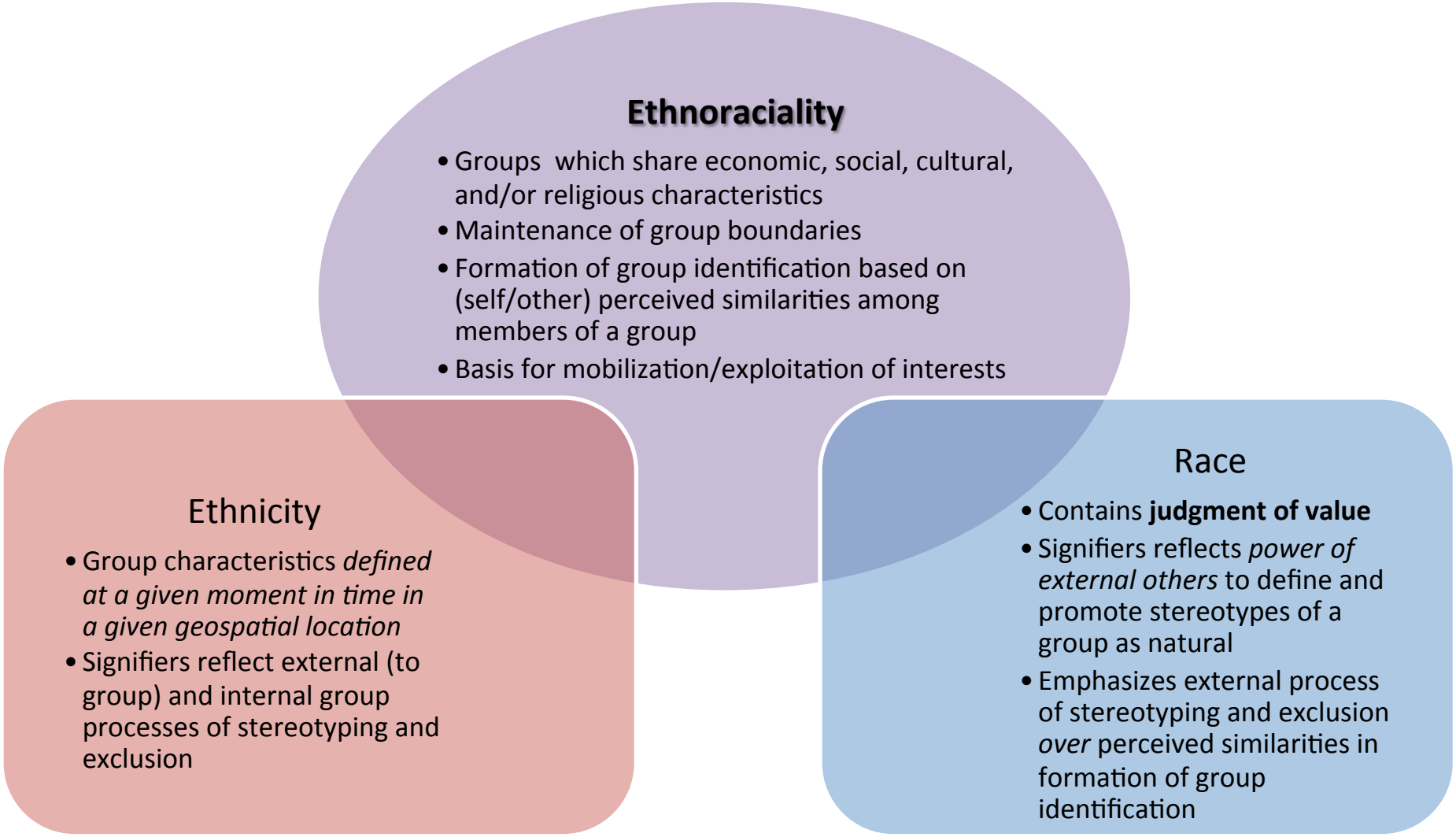
Three (3) Levels

Race (and similar social constructs) operates through a system of meaning that is activated by and manifested through social institutions and everyday social interaction.

Social Race

- This refers to a group defined as race in law or by custom that would not have enough anatomical homogeneity to be defined as a race.
- In contrast to biological race, which assumes that a race group is genetically homogenous and biologically distinct from another superior or inferior group, social race does not embody genetic differences.

Race, Ethnicity, and Ethnoraciality



Note: Figure created by Sewell, Abigail A. 2009-09-01. See Banton 1983; Karlsen and Nazroo 2006; Miles 1999; Weber 1922; Goldberg 2009

Prejudice

- Prejudice:
  - “an ***ideology*** that categorizes and ranks human groups, with some being inferior to others” (Williams, Lavizzo-Mourey, and Warren 1994: 29)

Discrimination

- Discrimination:
  - "institutional and individual ***practices*** that create and reinforce oppressive systems of race relations whereby people and institutions engaging in discrimination adversely restrict, by judgment and action, the lives of those against whom they discriminate" (Krieger 2003: 195).

Ethnocentrism

- judging another culture solely by the values and standards of one's own culture
  - Levine and Campbell 1972
    - Tajfel 1982
    - Triandis 1989
    - Berry 2002
    - Richerson and Boyd 2004

Racialism

The assumption that human groups must differ in cognitive, biological, genetic, and visually-recognizable attributes

(Goldberg 1994)

Racism

- Process:
  - "the unequal ***treatment or exploitation of social groups stemming from the racialization*** of a social relationship" (Karlsen and Nazroo 2006: 93)

Ideology of Racism
Albert Memmi

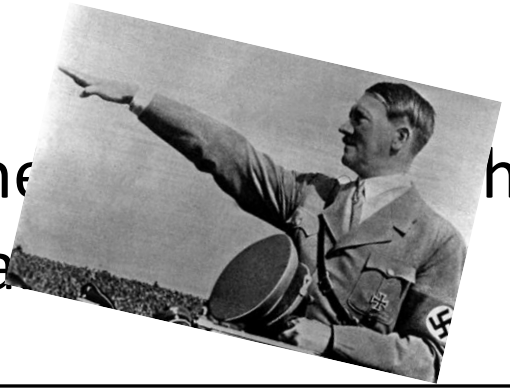
- Attitudinal Definition
  - "a generalizing definition and valuation of biological differences, whether real or imaginary, to the advantage of the one defining and deploying them, and to the detriment of the one subjected to that act of definition, to the end of justifying (social or physical) hostility and assault" (Memmi 2000: 184)

Ideology of Racism
Albert Memmi

- System Definition
  - Racism is not the cause of conflict. Racism is the outcome of rationalizing "ethnophobia"
  - Three Parts:
    - Othering;
    - Structured dependence of dominant identity;
    - Stigmatization of the other

Components of a Racial Ideology

1. An esthetic appraisal of physical features.
2. A mythology about traits of mind and personality correlated with physical features.
3. An almost mystical belief in the power of "blood" to elevate or to taint.

These components are combine  h on race to form the basis of a racia

<u>I will also refer to the three factors above as the "Ideology of Race"</u>

Institutional Racism

A system of unequal access to the goods, services, and opportunities of society by race

Unfairly disadvantages minorities

Unfairly advantages whites

Anti-blackness

Source: Carmichael and Hamilton 1967; Elias and Feagin 2016; Feagin 2000; Jones 2000; Jones et al. 2009; Krieger 1999; Wellman 1993