

Abstract

Sharing information about the family's culture is an important aspect for the exploration and affirmation of ethnic identity in adolescents. 71 African American and Latinx families (80 moms and 135 adolescents) were included in a study to examine the associations between parents' and children's ethnic identity, and how it was mediated by racial socialization. We measured levels of ethnic identity in mothers and adolescents. To determine if the exploration and affirmation of ethnic identity was associated with the messages of cultural pride received by parents, we measured three factors of racial socialization: cultural socialization, preparation for bias, and promotion of mistrust. We predicted that levels of ethnic identity would be higher in adolescents whose mothers were born outside the United States. Findings indicate a difference in ethnic identity affirmation between mothers born in or outside the United States being those mothers born in the United States showed higher levels of ethnic identity affirmation. Results from this study show that the mother's affirmation of ethnic identity was associated with adolescent's affirmation of ethnic identity. Results did not show significant relationship between mothers' affirmation and adolescents' exploration of ethnic identity. Findings suggest higher levels of ethnic identity affirmation for girls than boys

Introduction

- Ethnic identity is a part of an individual's self-concept that forms from a person's sense of belonging to an ethnic group (Phinney, 1992). There are two dimensions by which identity varies: exploration, and affirmation of ethnic identity.
- Ethnic identity is particularly important in the self-concept of minorities.
- Racial socialization are the messages parents share with their children about their racial group. Those messages can be of different types: heritage pride, preparation for bias, promotion of mistrust (Hughes et al., 2006)
- Not much is known about how ethnic identity and racial socialization vary based on immigration status

Methods and Materials

Methods: For this study our sample consisted of 71 families (80 moms and 135 adolescents). The participants identified as either Asian, African American, Native Hawaiian, White, South Asian or Middle Eastern, or other. However, for the purpose of this study we decided to focus on the African American and Hispanic population. Of our parents' sample 21 identified as African American, and 32 as hispanic. For 37 of them English was their native language. of our 135 adolescent sample we had 105 females and 15 males. Only 47 were African American, and 50 identified as Hispanic. 66 of the adolescents lived with 2 legal guardians, while other 49 lived with only 1 legal guardian.

Fig 1. Mediation models

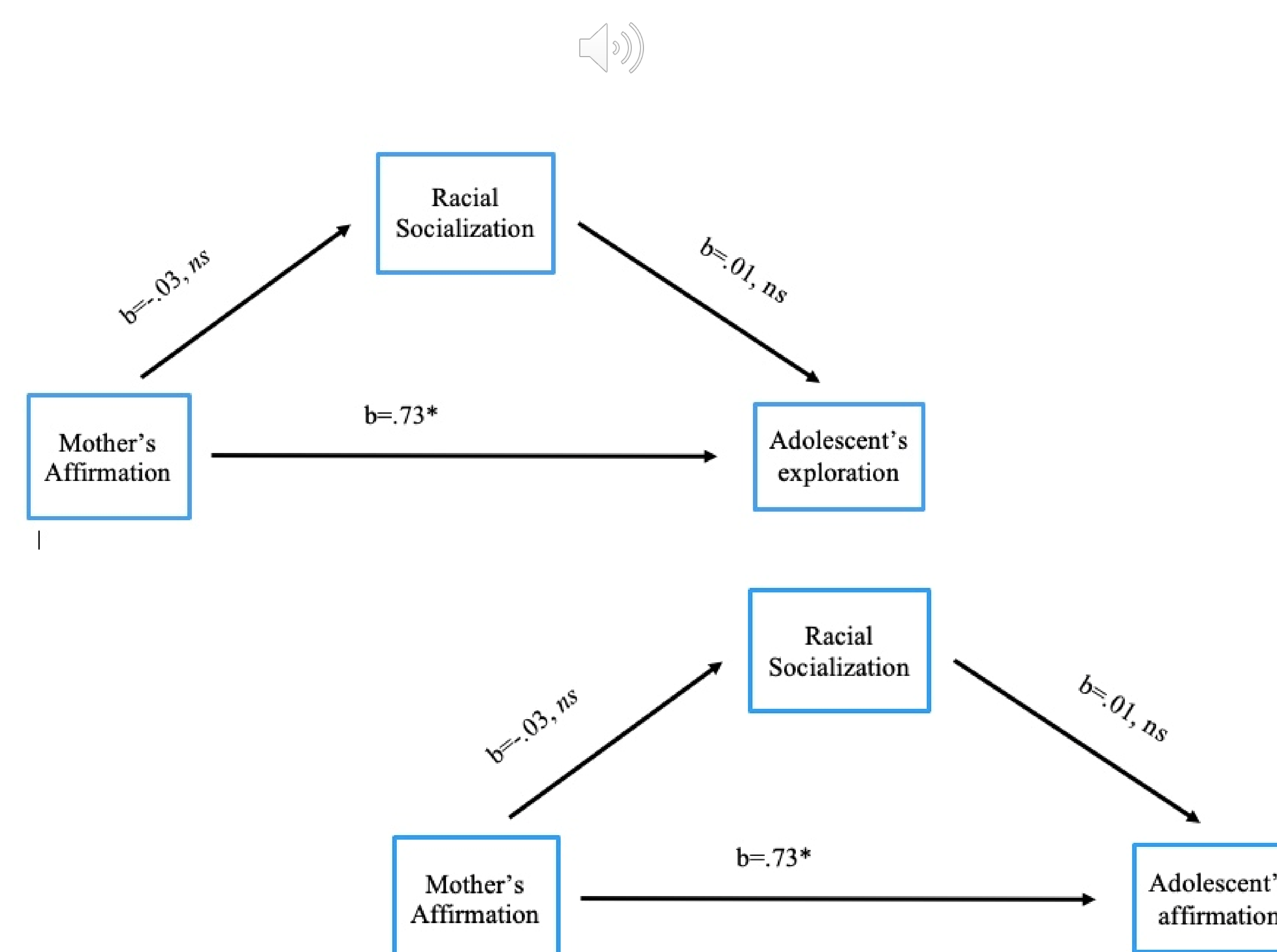
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Results

- There was a significant relationship between mother's affirmation and adolescent's ethnic identity exploration ($b=0.9086$ $SE=0.4109$ $t=2.2114$ $p=0.0319$ $CI: 0.0820, 1.7351$).
- Racial socialization was not a significant mediator between mother's affirmation and adolescent's exploration ($CI: -0.1594, 0.2464$).
- Mothers' affirmations was associated with the adolescent's affirmation ($b = .73$, $SE = .40$, $t = 3.18$, $p = .023$)
- model was not moderated by the mothers' native-born status, ($b = -.21$, $SE = .24$, $t = -.85$, $p = .40$).



Discussion

- There is a significant relation between mother's affirmation and the adolescent's exploration and affirmation of ethnic identity
- There was no significant association between mother's affirmation and racial socialization
- There was no significant association between adolescent's exploration/affirmation and racial socialization
- We did not find that racial socialization explained ethnic identity.
- Girls had higher levels of ethnic identity than boys
- American born moms had more ethnic identity than those born outside the U.S.

Limitations & Future Direction

- The size of the sample and the type of study were a limitation
- For future studies we hope to see in which ways racial socialization is shared within families
- Future research should explore the processes of acculturation of immigrants and how it impacts dynamics for ethnic identity

References

1. Phinney, J. (1992). The Multigroup Ethnic Identity Measure: A New Scale for Use With Diverse Group. *Journal of Adolescent Research*, Vol. 7 No. 2, 156-176.
2. Hughes, D., Smith, E., Stevenson, H., Rodriguez, J., Johnson, D., Spicer, P. (2006). Parents' Ethnic-Racial Socialization Practices: A Review of Research and Directions for Future Study. *Developmental Psychology*, Vol. 42, No. 5, 747-770