Adoptive parents unintentional, ignorant, or veiled ways behaviors, or attitudes that are sent either in innocent, unintentional, ignorant, or veiled ways (Sue et al., 2007).

- MA: difficult to recognize and navigate
- Harmful effects if unaddressed (e.g. lower self-esteem) (York, 2016).

Project goals: understand how adoptive parents are thinking about MAs and addressing this issue with their children.

Adoptive parents
- Transracial adoptive family (TRA): parent and child are not of the same race (e.g. in our sample, mostly White parents adopting children of color)
- Same-race family: parent and child are of the same race (e.g. White parent adopting White child)

**RESEARCH QUESTIONS**

- What do adoptive parents think about the bias experiences they have with their children? How do they talk to their children about these experiences?
- How do transracial adoptive and same-race adoptive families differ in these processes?

**FINDINGS**

*Unwelcome Curiosity* (forced-choice):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What parents thought forced-choice</th>
<th>N=34</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I thought it was okay.</td>
<td>2 (6%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I thought it showed their innocent interest that was too much.</td>
<td>12 (35%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I thought they were being intrusive.</td>
<td>18 (53%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I didn’t know what to think.</td>
<td>2 (6%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Destiny* (forced-choice):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What parents thought forced-choice</th>
<th>N=48</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I agreed. (MA)</td>
<td>19 (40%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I thought that some people might see adoption only as a good thing.</td>
<td>7 (15%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I thought it was unfair to child and their birth mother.</td>
<td>19 (40%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I didn’t know what to think.</td>
<td>3 (6%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TRA vs. Same-race Families – Cognition of MA**

**DISCUSSION**

Implications
- Need to educate same-race families about how to handle “Destiny” comments
- Parents agree most with “Destiny” MA (40%)
- Few parents who see the “Unwelcome Curiosity” microaggression as intrusive communicate this to their child
- Parents more likely to develop strategies with child for “Unwelcome Curiosity” scenario compared to others

Big Picture
- Adoptive parents do not always share their cognitions of others with their children
- Actions that parents engage in to help TV depends on specific MA scenario
  - Most parents in “destiny” scenario chose to provide background education
  - Many parents in “unwelcome curiosity” scenario chose to provide strategies to deal with the MA

Future Research
- What are the impacts on children’s outcomes when parents agree with MAs/convay MAs to TY?
- How prepared are TRA parents to develop strategies with their child, given that they have different life experiences?
- How can adoption professionals prepare families?

**REFERENCES**


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