

# Race, Ethnicity, & Culture Reading List

Layla Lusby | 4/1/2024

## Where We Have Been and Where We Can Go From Here: Looking to the Future in Research on Media, Race, and Ethnicity. (Journal)

This article is about race representation in media and media portrayals and how they can create barriers for the people that they apply to. Additionally, this journal heavily reflects on the real world implications and impact on self-perception had by these false or inaccurate portrayals. History and evolution over time, starting in the 1950's when the public first became critical of race in the media, are another thing this article unpacks. To conclude, the author looks at the media going forward, and offers sentiments on how to improve.

The research found that it was important to move away from and avoid racial stereotypes and to utilize more egalitarian views of minoritized people in the media. They mention that this is important for both white and nonwhite media consumers, both in regards to representation and watching said media. The need for change is universal and can provide a great tool for educating the masses on race related issues and perceptions, both of self and of others.

I think this is a good study that makes a good point about how negative representation can affect internal perception and biases just as much as it can affect one's perceptions of others. Only being shown negative stereotypes and depictions of a group you belong to in any capacity, but especially on the topic of race and ethnicity, can lead you to behave in a way that reinforces or drastically pushes against them in a way that can be daunting or harmful.

## Race and Media: A Critical Essay Acknowledging the Current State of Race-Related Media Effects Research and Directions for Future Exploration. (Journal)

This article reflects on how diverse media is made with white audiences in mind. In that sense, the patterns and trends of minority centered media still reflect the ideals and implications of white writers, directors, and audiences. The journal looks into frameworks and systems of support for improving and remediating the issues that currently exist in mass media.

This research dives deep into different socialization theories and media archetypes that expand upon and explain the means by which media impacts the public. It makes a point to discuss the fact that media is becoming more widely accessible across many different lines, mainly class and wealth, and how it is important for minoritized groups to seek out media in which they are positively reflected. The journal makes a point to call out mass media's hesitation toward racial diversity.

I really like this journal, I think it does a great job of dissecting the implications of race representation and the quality of it in a way that feels knowledgeable and objective. Using sociology and sociological principles is a really good way to look at this subject in a way that is universal and easily understood.

## Progress? What progress? Inclusion in Hollywood is limited and lacking. (Article/Case Study)

The research compiles the statistics from 1,600 movies and looks at the representation of POC, different levels of ability, and LGBTQ+ characters and actors. With nearly 70,000 characters factored into the study it is one of the largest and most comprehensive looks into modern mainstream media. It explains the numbers, and points out a distinct lack of representation of non-white characters and further lack of intersectional identities.

Aside from the aforementioned numbers, which speak for themselves and have already been discussed in class, the article examining the study points to misguided decision making by the higher ups in Hollywood. They're not allowing for newer artists of different backgrounds to have a seat at the table. It also notes that while the data for representation seems to be on an incline, not enough work has been done to truly say we've improved.

I think this study is great. Laying out all the facts and saying it straightforward is the clearest and most obvious way to see where the media falls short. Figures and facts don't lie, and it makes it impossible to deny the inherent issues with race representations in the media.

## Discussion

All of these articles reflect on media representation in a broad sense across all facets of race and ethnicity identities. It has pointed out the value and importance of avoiding stereotypes, thinking about the real world implications of media representation, and allowing people of minoritized groups to tell their own stories. As I go forward with my personas, I will make sure to prioritize personality and truth rather than fulfilling archetypes. While mainstays of particular cultures are important, and can be utilized for characterization and advertising, ensuring their accuracy and quality is what can define it as authentic or stereotypical.

## Bibliography

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