



Interracial Research Guide: <https://guides.lib.umich.edu/interracial>

Being Mixed Race in a Monoracially Organized World:

What Research and Mixed Race People Tell Us About Mixed Race Identity

On the 57th anniversary of the Loving v. Virginia Supreme Court case that made interracial marriage legal in all 50 U.S. states, and as we enter the fourth decade where mixed race people are able to fully express their racial identities on the U.S. Census by choosing “two or more” race categories, this exhibit shares the troubled history of racial identity and acceptance through the lens of mixed race people. It also explores how writers, musicians, politicians, artists, and academics have pushed back against the dominant “monoracial” narrative that keeps us as a country, as institutions, and as individuals from acknowledging the presence and needs of mixed race-identifying people. The exhibit examines the role of inter-racialized ideas in constructing the self in a largely mono-racialized society.

Content Advisory: Please be aware that some items in this exhibit feature historical imagery and potentially painful content. Although mixed race people have long been ignored and/or denied intersectional identities in society, the history around mixed race images and attention was (and largely still is) often treated as tropes of the “tragic mulatto”, “half breeds”, highly sexualized, and exoticized. This exhibit attempts to balance those images and histories with more positive and contemporary reflections of the range of ways mixed race people have contributed to society through writing, visual and performing arts, research, and political thought.

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