

LECTURE 6 (Race Discrimination)

Australian legislation: the Racial Discrimination Act (RDA:1975)

- The RDA applies to everyone and makes racial discrimination unlawful in Aus
- Aims to ensure human rights and freedoms regardless of race, colour, descent, nationality or ethnic origin
- Section 18c of RDA (repeal attempt in 2014)
 - o Attorney-General George Brandis, Mar 2014: 'people do have the right to be bigots...'
 - o More than 76% of 4100 submissions opposed the repeal
- The complaint process
 - o Initial enquiry → complaint lodged → obtain information → complaint terminated (can apply to court) / conciliation → resolved / not resolved → complain terminated (can apply to court)

Race discrimination commissioner

- Dr Tim Soutphommasane – appointed in 2013

Racial discrimination and health in Australia

- 10 year gap in life expectancy between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians
 - o Not on track to meet no gap target by 2031
- Indigenous youth and young adult suicide is high (2008-2012: suicide rate was almost double non-Indigenous Aus) – particularly the rate for Indigenous 20-24 y/old males

Racial discrimination in Australia (example)

- Post Martin Place siege: travelling with a female Muslim Australian – hostile looks, discriminatory comments

Measuring racial discrimination

- Subjective measures
 - o Harrell (1994, 1997) – racial and life experiences scale (RALES), 20-item daily life experiences (DLE) subscale measures the perception of the frequency of daily race-based micro-aggression in the past year
 - 'being treated rudely or disrespectfully'
 - 'being ignored, overlooked, or not given services'
 - 0=never, 5=once a week or more
 - o Williams et al.'s (1997) everyday discrimination scale (EDS)
 - 'In your day to day life, how often do the following happen to you (0=never, 5=almost every day)' – e.g.
 - 'you are treated with less courtesy than other people are'
 - 'you are threatened or harassed'
- Objective measures
 - o Lynn et al. (2008) – both White and Black consumers discriminated against Black service providers by tipping them less than White service providers (all other variables controlled for)

- Riach and Rich's (1991) 'correspondence testing' or 'audit discrimination' study
 - o Sent written job applications (identical bar race – Vietnamese and Greek Australians) to advertised vacancies
 - If both applicants are invited for an interview, it was treated as no discrimination. If one applicant was invited, it was treated as discrimination
 - Anglo- name: Joanne Baker
 - Greek- name: Gina Papadopoulos
 - Vietnamese- name: Thi Nguyen
 - o Both male and female Vietnamese applicants were denied an interview (discrimination) on 1/3 of the occasions
 - 8.8% against Anglo- for males; 4% against Anglo- females
 - o Overall discrimination between Vietnamese and Anglo-Celtic is significant (chi-squared=37.62, $p < .001$)
 - o Greek males were denied an interview on 1/5 of occasions and Greek females on 1/10 – Anglo- 5.5%
 - Female Greek discrimination 11.3% - Anglo- 6.1%
 - o Overall difference between Greek and Anglo-Celtic is significant (chi-squared=7.16, $p < .01$)
- Booth, Leigh and Varganova (2012) audit discrimination study
 - o Fake CVs to employers – Chinese and Middle Easterners had to submit at least 50% more applications to receive the same number of call backs as Anglo candidates
 - o Indigenous applicants also experience statistically significant levels of discrimination
 - o No significant difference between Italian and Anglo-

Differences in majority attitudes towards the out-group

- PSYC2013 study – N=170 (116 f, 54 m), mean age = 22.09 (SD=5.98)
 - o Attitudes towards Australian Muslims
 - o Found: integrationist acculturation orientation (be who you are but just adopt...) was the most endorsed followed by individualistic orientation
- Majority attitudes towards Muslims – Anglo-Australians' positive attitudes towards Muslim Australians was significantly higher than their negative attitudes [t(169)=12.60, $p < .001$]
 - o Positive attitudes correlate with positive actions (integrationism, individualism)
 - o Negative attitudes correlate with negative actions (assimilationism, segregationism)