

## **UMSAEP UM-UWC Linkage Report**

### **2010 & 2015<sup>1</sup> Projects**

Submitted by Dr. Matthew Taylor  
Associate Professor, Department of Psychological Sciences  
University of Missouri-St. Louis (UMSL)

#### UWC Hosts

Dr. Kelvin Mwaba, Professor, Department of Psychology (2010)  
&  
Dr. Nicolette Roman, Professor, Department of Social Work (2010, 2015)

### **1. Overview**

This report briefly documents the utilization of the University of Missouri South African Education Program (specifically, funding from the UM/UWC Linkage Program) in the development, maintenance, and continuation of a 7 year, 2 project collaborative relationship between myself (M. Taylor, UMSL Psychological Sciences) and Drs. Kelvin Mwaba (UWC Psychology) and Nicolette Roman (UWC Social Work). In addition to the standard and expected research outcomes and opportunities for us faculty and our students (both undergraduate and graduate), the years of work have indelibly linked our professional and personal families.

### **2. Project Outlines (*abbreviated*)**

2010 Project: Racial & Ethnic Identity Among Black/White Biracial Americans and Coloured South Africans: A Comparative Study of Identity Construction and Mental Health Outcomes

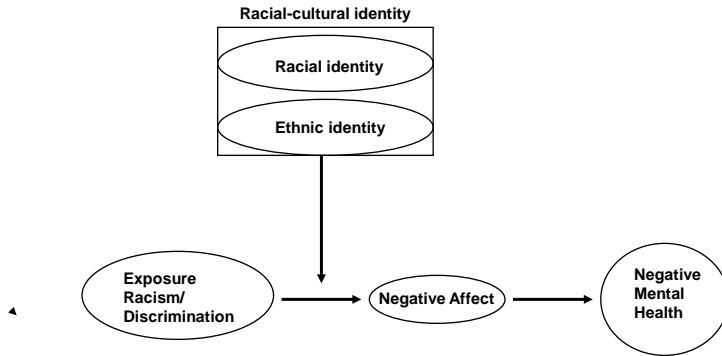
The 2010 project was a multifaceted endeavor that focused on racial/ethnic identity, experiences with racism, and mental health outcomes within the South African Coloured community (with comparisons to mixed race Black-White Americans). The objectives of the current project were to: 1) assess the validity of the Multidimensional Inventory of Black Identity (MIBI) adapted for a Coloured South African population (Sellers, Rowley, Chavous, Shelton, & Smith, 1997); 2) assess the validity of the Multigroup Ethnic Identity Measure (MEIM; Phinney, 1992) also adapted for a Coloured South African sample; 3) explore the relationship between racial and ethnic identity, experiences with racism, and mental health outcomes (self-esteem, anxiety, and depression) for a Coloured South African sample; and 4) compare matched samples of South African Coloureds and American biracials on racial/ethnic identity, experiences with racism, and mental health outcomes.

Below is the hypothesized and examined model:

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<sup>1</sup> Dates represent year award was initially given

**Figure 1.** Racial-cultural identity as moderator of exposure to racism/discrimination and negative affect impacting mental health outcomes

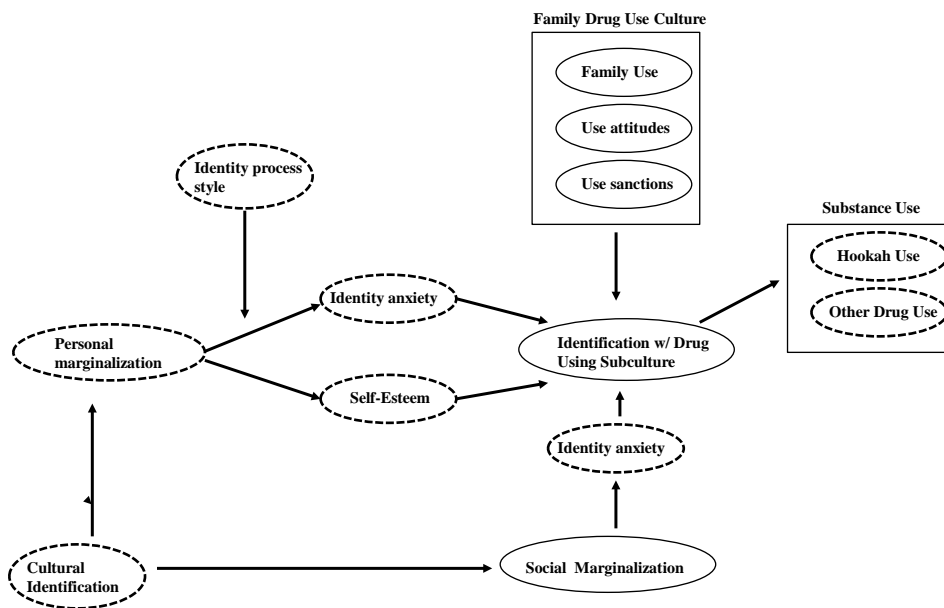


Current (2015) Project: Exploring the Role of Cultural Identification on Hookah and Other Drug Use Among Coloured South Africans

The (current) 2015 project is built directly upon the initial collaboration and early findings about Coloured identity and coping with racism/discrimination via substance use. This project seeks to further dissect and understand the essence of Coloured identity in 21<sup>st</sup> century South Africa from both a group and individual framework and how these features impact substance use. Specifically, the objectives of the current project are to examine how substance use is related to and impacted by: 1) perceptions of group marginalization; 2) individual cultural identity developmental processes; 3) individual identification with drug using subcultures; & 4) the communication of and adherence to peer and family cultural norms regarding substance use.

Below is the multifaceted model for the 2015 project.

Figure 1. Individual (micro) and group (meso) level cultural linkages to hookah and other substance use [dashed = micro]



### 3. Project Trajectories

#### 2010 Project

My 2010 (September) travel to Cape Town and subsequent meetings at UWC represented the preparatory elements of this work. One aspect of this involved the convening of four (4) focus groups of ten (10) self-identified Coloured South African adult participants (n = 40). The purpose of the focus groups was to: 1) gather general information about the current conceptualization of Coloured identity; 2) obtain information to aid in the culturally-appropriate adaptation of the instrumentation; and 3) process with individuals who are representative of the target population as to the best way to recruit participants and collect data (e.g., in-person interviews, online survey, pencil-paper, etc...) for the previously noted sub-studies. Meetings early in the visit were focused on finalizing the focus group protocols.

We completed preparation of questions and logistical arrangements for the groups. Two 90-minute focus groups and post-group meals took place mid-visit in the community of Mitchell’s Plain, a largely Coloured township about 20 km from Cape Town, and were facilitated by myself, Dr. Roman, and a research assistant from UWC. Another 2 groups were planned to be done on UWC’s campus with Coloured students and facilitated by Dr. Roman and the research assistant.

Analyses and subsequent discussion of qualitative data were conducted via video conference calls and email. With these data and results in hand, we set about finalizing the instrumentation and procedures for the quantitative arm of the project. Drs. Mwaba and Roman’s visit to St. Louis in 2011 (May) provided the in-person collaborations to do finalize this. A great deal of focus was spent trying to maneuver around logistical issues, namely the

potential ethics of having only Coloured students complete instrumentation, given our utilization of classroom settings to collect data. We developed a number of instrument adaptations whereby all students could respond to the items and relate them to their own culture of origin. Data piloting and final collection took place Fall 2011.

#### Current (2015) Project:

Upon Fall 2015 receipt of award we began planning the current project, again utilizing participant focus groups as step one given the need to be sensitive to our cross-cultural conceptualization of new variables of interest as well as adaptation of a new set of instruments. Moreover, as our previous work had focused on Coloured young adults, we wanted to have two (2) focus groups with Coloured adolescents (aged 14-17 years) and another one for adults (over age 18) as a reverification step. Participants were recruited again in the Mitchell's Plain community by Dr. Roman and her research staff. The purpose of the focus groups was to: 1) assess the degree to which our previous work on cultural identification among Coloured adults needs to be adapted for adolescents; 2) obtain information to aid in the culturally-appropriate adaptation of other instrumentation that has not yet been used in South Africa; and 3) process with individuals who are representative of the target population as to the best way to recruit participants and collect data (e.g., in-person interviews, online survey, pencil-paper, etc...) for quantitative portion of the study.

During my 2016 (March) trip focus groups were co-led by myself and Dr. Roman. Data were analyzed over the next few months and quantitative instrumentation developed. Dr. Roman coordinated quantitative community-based data collection and had data in hand when she arrived in St. Louis, July 2016. During her visit we began data cleaning, wrote a conceptual paper, and a devised plan for the development of future research outcomes (e.g., papers, conference presentations, etc...).

#### **4. Additional Noteworthy Activities**

##### 2010 Project:

There was also an opportunity for me to provide a guest lecture on multiracial identity development and the project to Dr. Mwaba's graduate seminar course in psychology. Additionally, I had a meeting with Professor Jan Persens, the Director of the International Relations Office for UWC. I provided him and update on my travel, the collaborative project, and engaged in some general discussion about the fruitfulness of the UM-UWC partnership program.

##### Current (2015) Project:

During this visit (as well as 2010) I also participated in a number of more informal meetings and discussions with elders and other members of the Coloured community to acquire a better understanding of the relevant history, present-day realities, and perceived future of the group through their own analyses. I also visited the District 6 museum as part of this community-based exploration/education.

## 5. Outputs (presentations & manuscripts; *partial list*)

\* indicates student participant

### 2010 Project:

#### *Presentations:*

Collier\*, J., Taylor, M. J., Mwaba, K., & Roman, N. (2016, March). *Racial-ethnic identity, discrimination, and mental health in the Coloured South African population*. Poster accepted for presentation at the annual meeting of the Psychological Society of South Africa, Johannesburg, South Africa.

Belgrade, A., Taylor, M. J., Mwaba, K., & Roman, N. (2015, May) *Ethnic identity's relation to self-esteem among multiracial groups in South Africa and the United States*. Paper presented at the annual conference of the Midwestern Psychological Association, Chicago, IL.

Belgrade, A., Taylor, M. J., Mwaba, K., & Roman, N. (2015, February). *A comparison of ethnic identity among Coloured South Africans and Black-White biracial Americans*. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Society for Cross-Cultural Research, Albuquerque, NM.

Taylor, M. J., Roman, N., & Mwaba, K. (2014, August). *A generational exploration of Coloured identity in post-Apartheid South Africa: Marching toward a new personhood*. Poster presented at the annual convention of the American Psychological Association: Washington, DC.

Taylor, M. J., Roman, N., Mwaba, K., & Rule\*, C. (2011, June). *Coloured identity in post-Apartheid South Africa: A study of the new experience of personhood*. Paper presented at the International Conference on Diversity in Organisations, Communities, and Nations, Cape Town, Western Cape, South Africa.

#### *Manuscripts in development:*

Taylor, M. J., Roman, N., & Mwaba, K., *Coloured identity in post-Apartheid South Africa: A study of the new experience of personhood*.

Taylor, M. J., Roman, N., & Mwaba, K., *Racial identity in the new South Africa: A cross-cultural utilization of the Multidimensional Inventory of Black Identity (MIBI)*.

### Current (2015) Project:

#### *Grant (developed from 2010 project):*

Title: Exploring the Role of Cultural Identification on Hookah and Other Drug Use Among Coloured South Africans.

Date: 10/1/2015 – Present

Amount: \$4000

Funding Source: University of Missouri/University of the Western Cape Linkages Program

Role: Co-Principal Investigator (Dr. Nicky Roman, Dept. of Child & Family Studies, Univ. of the Western Cape)

#### *Presentations:*

Scharer\*, J. L., Taylor, M. J., Roman, N. V., & Linden\*, K. (2017, November). *Peer influences mediate the relationship between marginalization and tobacco use among Coloured South Africans*. Poster to be presented at the 2017 convention of the Association of Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies, San Diego, CA.

Taylor, M. J., & Roman, N. V. (2017, August). *Marginalization & identity processes: Implications for substance use among Coloured South Africans*. Poster accepted for presentation at the annual meeting of the American Psychological Association, Washington, DC.

Scharer\*, J. L., Taylor, M. J., Roman, N. V., & Linden\*, K. (2017, August). *Family functioning and tobacco use among Coloured South Africans*. Poster accepted for presentation at the annual meeting of the American Psychological Association, Washington, DC.

*Manuscripts under review:*

Roman, N. V. & Taylor, M. J. Reducing the use of the hookah: A review of what may be required. *Bulletin of the World Health Organization*.