

Review of: "Racial Composition and Perceptions of Microaggressions: Implications for High School Counselors"

Diego Farren¹

¹ Universität Hamburg

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

The paper is very well written (although I'm not a native speaker). The structure and the main idea of the paper are very clear.

There are some minor comments in the attached PDF, but I think the paper is good as it is. I just have one comment that I would like to express very carefully so as not to be misunderstood.

The paper assumes that aggressions against minorities are constant and that whether they are reported or not is influenced by the contexts in which the respondents grew up. Whether minorities perceive these aggressions or not may be influenced by how the context in which they grew up perceives such aggressions. For example, growing up in a context where whites are in the majority may influence their perceptions in the sense that they may not realize that they are being victimized.

While this argument seems plausible, the opposite argument also seems possible, i.e., that those who grow up in a majority-minority context may internalize a narrative in which attitudes and behaviors are perceived as aggression when they are not intended to be.

In summary, what is being tested here is how "perceptions" are influenced by past socialization. And this can go both ways, i.e., "desensitization" as well as "oversensitization". It may be politically incorrect to emphasize the latter, but in my own experience as a migrant, I think it can also play an important role.

One last comment related to the previous one. I do not think that the characteristics of the environments in which respondents grew up can influence the occurrence of aggression in the present (although they may influence the tendency of potential victims to spend time in contexts where aggression is more or less likely). I think that the characteristics of past environments may primarily influence how people perceive reality, but not the behavior of others (who are probably unrelated to the previous environments). But the way the hypotheses are stated gives the impression that the characteristics of past environments may influence the behavior of others. But maybe my English is the problem here.