

Exploring Internalized Oppression & Ethnic Identity of Young Adult Filipino Immigrants in New York

AUTHOR: Gertrude Abarentos

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ABSTRACT: This study focused on the Filipino immigrant community, the fourth among Asian communities to have reported most hate incident experiences during the COVID-19 pandemic, specifically in New York City-which has a 335% increase of hate incident reports from January to May 2021 (Ly & Setty, 2021). Focusing on the “*fresh-off-the-boat*” immigrants, it investigated their expressions of ethnic identity and the reasons behind it, particularly, through their process of acculturation. Lastly, the factor of young adulthood years (18-35) will facilitate the findings of this study considering that these years are typically associated with identity moratorium from James Marcia’s Identity Status, which is a period of identity exploration that involves finding meaningful life directions and sense of self (relationships, intimacy, careers, among others) but usually with low identity-defining commitments until decline (Kroger, 2017). Previous research has been devoted to understanding immigration, acculturation, and adaptation (Berry & Sam, 1997 in Berry, 2010), particularly of Filipino adults (Straiton, Ledesma, & Donnelly, 2017) and/or second-generation Filipino Immigrants (Welsh, 2018). However, only a few have addressed this phenomenon within first generation Filipino youth with internalized oppression in consideration situation. Thus, this research aims to answer the question: *How does internalized oppression take part in New York City’s young adult Filipino immigrants’ acculturation and subsequently, expression of identity?*

Filipino Immigrants, Acculturation, Ethnic Identity, Internalized oppression