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**Aspinall, Peter J., Song, Miri and Hashem, Ferhana (2006) *Mixed Race in Britain: A Survey of the Preferences of Mixed Race People for Terminology and Classifications*. Other. Centre for Health Services Studies, Canterbury**

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# MIXED RACE IN BRITAIN:

A Survey of Peoples' Preferences for  
Terminology & Official Classifications

A Joint Project in

THE UNIVERSITY OF KENT

## Instructions

- Most of the questions in this booklet can be answered by ticking one or more boxes.
- Some ask you to write in your preferred answer if you feel none of the boxes really represents the answer you want to give.
- When you have answered one question, always go on to the next question unless you are instructed otherwise.
- Please try to give the most accurate answer you can to each question.

Please remember your answers will be treated in the strictest confidence – only the researchers involved will have access to your answers and nothing that you write will be communicated to anyone.

## Consent

I hereby confirm that I have received the information sheet relating to this research.

I understand that full anonymity will be maintained and that the questionnaires will not be traced to the individuals who complete them.

**I consent** to participating in this research project.

Please sign or initial.....

Date.....

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## Your identity

- 1 Please describe your racial/ethnic identity in your own words in the text box below.

- 2 Why do you identify yourself in the above way?

*Please tick all boxes that apply*

- |   |                          |
|---|--------------------------|
| It is my own sense of personal identity   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| It is the way society sees me   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| It is the group I feel I belong to  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| My parents are from different racial/ethnic groups                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| My ancestors (forebears) before my parents were from different racial/ethnic groups | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| My friends/peers identify me in this way  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Some other reason ( <i>please specify</i> _____)                                    | <input type="checkbox"/> |

- 3 How important overall is it for you to identify with your known ancestry?

*Please tick one box only*

- |                  |                          |
|------------------|--------------------------|
| Very important   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Fairly important | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Not important    | <input type="checkbox"/> |

- 4 How important is it for you to identify with **all** the specific racial/ethnic groups that comprise your known ancestry?

*Please tick one box only*

- |                  |                          |
|------------------|--------------------------|
| Very important   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Fairly important | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Not important    | <input type="checkbox"/> |

## Terminology

- 5 Which of the following general terms for mixed race do you prefer?

*Please tick one or more boxes*

I do not identify as mixed race

I identify as mixed race and prefer the term(s):

- Mixed parentage   
Mixed race   
Dual heritage   
Mixed heritage   
Multiracial   
Mixed origins   
Some other term (*specify*.....)   
No preference   
I never think about it

- 6 Are there *any* terms (including *any* of the above) that you find offensive or would not like to see on an official form for any reason?

*Please tick one box only*

- Yes   
No

If yes, what term(s)? *Please write in* \_\_\_\_\_

Why do you find these term(s) offensive or inappropriate? *Please write in* \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

- 7 Do you think terms like 'mixed race' and 'mixed parentage' should refer to...

*Please tick all boxes that apply*

- People who are mixes of white and black groups only   
People who are mixes of white and *any* minority racial/ethnic group   
People who are mixes of minority racial/ethnic groups *excluding white*   
People of disparate *ethnic* origins (e.g. 'Welsh & Polish')

## Classifications

**8** Please complete **all three** ethnic group questions below, then answer the questions about them at the bottom of the page.

<b>I</b>	<b>II</b>	<b>III</b>
<p><b>What is your ethnic group?</b></p> <p>◇ Choose ONE SECTION from A to E, then tick the appropriate box to indicate your cultural background.</p> <p><b>A White</b>  <input type="checkbox"/> British  <input type="checkbox"/> Irish  <input type="checkbox"/> Any other White background,  <i>Please write in</i> _____</p> <hr/> <p><b>B Mixed</b>  <input type="checkbox"/> White and Black Caribbean  <input type="checkbox"/> White and Black African  <input type="checkbox"/> White and Asian  <input type="checkbox"/> Any other Mixed background,  <i>Please write in</i> _____</p> <hr/> <p><b>C Asian or Asian British</b>  <input type="checkbox"/> Indian  <input type="checkbox"/> Pakistani  <input type="checkbox"/> Bangladeshi  <input type="checkbox"/> Any other Asian background,  <i>Please write in</i> _____</p> <hr/> <p><b>D Black or Black British</b>  <input type="checkbox"/> Caribbean  <input type="checkbox"/> African  <input type="checkbox"/> Any other Black background,  <i>Please write in</i> _____</p> <hr/> <p><b>E Chinese or other ethnic group</b>  <input type="checkbox"/> Chinese  <input type="checkbox"/> Any other,  <i>Please write in</i> _____</p> <hr/>	<p><b>What is your ethnic group</b></p> <p>◇ Choose ONE SECTION from A to E, then tick the appropriate box to indicate your cultural background.</p> <p><b>A White</b>  <input type="checkbox"/> British  <input type="checkbox"/> Irish  <input type="checkbox"/> Any other White background,  <i>Please write in</i> _____</p> <hr/> <p><b>B Mixed</b>  <input type="checkbox"/> Any Mixed background,  <i>Please write in</i> _____</p> <hr/> <p><b>C Asian or Asian British</b>  <input type="checkbox"/> Indian  <input type="checkbox"/> Pakistani  <input type="checkbox"/> Bangladeshi  <input type="checkbox"/> Any other Asian background,  <i>Please write in</i> _____</p> <hr/> <p><b>D Black or Black British</b>  <input type="checkbox"/> Caribbean  <input type="checkbox"/> African  <input type="checkbox"/> Any other Black background,  <i>Please write in</i> _____</p> <hr/> <p><b>E Chinese or other ethnic group</b>  <input type="checkbox"/> Chinese  <input type="checkbox"/> Any other,  <i>Please write in</i> _____</p> <hr/>	<p><b>What is your ethnic group</b></p> <p>◇ Choose ONE SECTION from A to E, then tick the appropriate box(s) to indicate your cultural background.</p> <p><b>A White</b>  <input type="checkbox"/> British  <input type="checkbox"/> Irish  <input type="checkbox"/> Any other White background,  <i>Please write in</i> _____</p> <hr/> <p><b>B Mixed</b>  <i>Please tick all boxes in SECTIONS A, C, D, &amp; E (above and below) that apply to you</i></p> <hr/> <p><b>C Asian or Asian British</b>  <input type="checkbox"/> Indian  <input type="checkbox"/> Pakistani  <input type="checkbox"/> Bangladeshi  <input type="checkbox"/> Any other Asian background,  <i>Please write in</i> _____</p> <hr/> <p><b>D Black or Black British</b>  <input type="checkbox"/> Caribbean  <input type="checkbox"/> African  <input type="checkbox"/> Any other Black background,  <i>Please write in</i> _____</p> <hr/> <p><b>E Chinese or other ethnic group</b>  <input type="checkbox"/> Chinese  <input type="checkbox"/> Any other,  <i>Please write in</i> _____</p> <hr/>

*Circle one number only per line*

- |  |          |           |            |
|--|----------|-----------|------------|
| <b>9</b> Which of these questions was the easiest of complete                                | <b>I</b> | <b>II</b> | <b>III</b> |
| <b>10</b> Which of these questions was most difficult to complete                            | <b>I</b> | <b>II</b> | <b>III</b> |
| <b>11</b> Which of these questions best enabled you to describe your racial/ethnic identity? | <b>I</b> | <b>II</b> | <b>III</b> |

**12** Looking again at the categorisation for ‘mixed’ (the 1<sup>st</sup> option):

<p><b>“Mixed</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> White and Black Caribbean</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> White and Black African</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> White and Asian</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Any other Mixed background,</li></ul> <p><i>Please write in</i>.....”</p> <p>.....”</p>
--

(i) Is there anything you particularly like about this question?

*Please write in* \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

(ii) Is there anything you particularly dislike about this question?

*Please write in* \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## Changes in your racial/ethnic identity

**13** (i) Have you ever reported your racial/ethnic identity differently from the way you usually do now?

*Please tick one box only*

- |     |                          |                     |
|-----|--------------------------|---------------------|
| Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>Go to 13(ii)</i> |
| No  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>Go to 14</i>     |

(ii) What were the reasons for reporting your racial/ethnic identity differently?

*Please write in* \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**14** (i) Can you foresee a future time when you might report your racial/ethnic identity differently from the way you do now?

*Please tick one box only*

- |            |                          |                     |
|------------|--------------------------|---------------------|
| Yes        | <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>Go to 14(ii)</i> |
| No         | <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>Go to 15</i>     |
| Don't know | <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>Go to 15</i>     |

(ii) If yes, please explain.

*Please write in* \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

- 15 (i) Do you describe your racial/ethnic identity differently in conversation with friends to the way you report it on official forms?

*Please tick one box only*

- Yes  *Go to 15(ii)*  
No  *Go to 16*

- (ii) How do you describe your racial/ethnic identity differently?

*Please write in* \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Some general questions about you

- 16 Are you...

*Please tick one box only*

- Male   
Female

- 17 How old are you?

Years: \_\_\_\_\_

- 18 What is your housing tenure? Are you....

*Please tick one box only*

- An owner-occupier (with or without a mortgage)   
Renting from a Local Authority or Council   
Renting from a Housing Association   
Renting from a private landlord   
Living with parents/family   
Other (*please specify* \_\_\_\_\_)

- 19 (i) Which of the following best describes your current situation?

*Please tick one box only*

- I am employed (self employed or an employee)   
I am retired   
I am unemployed and looking for work   
I am unable to work due to disability or ill health   
I am caring for my home & family/dependents   
I am a full-time student   
Other (*please specify* \_\_\_\_\_)



(ii) If you have ever been in paid employment, which of the following best describes the sort of work you do (or did in your last job if are not working now)?

*Please tick one box only*

- I Professional
- II Managerial & technical
- III Skilled occupations
- (N)Non-manual
- (M)Manual
- IV Partly skilled
- V Unskilled
- Other (*please specify*\_\_\_\_\_)

**20** What is your country of birth?

*Please tick one box only*

- United Kingdom
- Republic of Ireland
- Elsewhere, *please write in the country*\_\_\_\_\_

**21** Do you self-identify with a particular national identity/group?

*Please tick one or more boxes*

- No
- Yes.....
- British
- English
- Scottish
- Welsh
- Irish
- Some other (*please specify*\_\_\_\_\_)

**22** Finally, what are your family's ethnic origins?

*Please tick the appropriate box(es) for both (i) & (ii)*

(i) Your mother's family

(ii)Your father's family

- |                 |                          |                          |
|-----------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| White           | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Black-Caribbean | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Black-African   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Indian          | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Pakistani       | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Bangladeshi     | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Chinese         | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Other           | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

*Please explain your family origins in more detail, if the options above are not appropriate to your particular situation*\_\_\_\_\_

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If there are any other comments you would like to make please record them here:

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**Next**

- Now please check that you have answered all the questions that apply to you.
- Please return the completed questionnaire in the stamped addressed enveloped.

**Thank you very much for your help; we are grateful for the trouble you have taken.**

