

Faculti Summary

<https://faculti.net/growing-up-with-racism/>

This video video recounts insights from a researcher who conducted interviews with children across the United States—specifically in Mississippi and Massachusetts—about their perceptions of race and politics, particularly in the context of the Trump administration. The researcher previously engaged with educators and parents, observing how political events impacted local communities, and wanted to understand how children were interpreting these experiences.

The research revealed that children's understanding of race is significantly influenced by the political climate. Notably, the study found three distinct groups among white children: those who were horrified by Trump's presidency, those who supported him and expressed emotions of dominance, and children of color who felt fear and concern for their wellbeing and that of their communities due to the rhetoric they encountered.

Key findings indicate that children are not isolated from political discourse and that their emotional responses to issues of race should be taken seriously. The researcher emphasized the need for a broader understanding of how children learn about racism, suggesting that while parental conversations about race are important, many other influences shape children's perspectives, including media and peer interactions.

The researcher argues for sociological approaches to studying childhood, highlighting the importance of understanding how children are active participants in the social reproduction of racism and stressing the need for targeted interventions that acknowledge their emotional experiences and the complexities of racial learning. Ultimately, the research serves as a warning about the potential long-term impacts of political narratives on children's views of democracy and societal inclusion.