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Title: School Ethnic Context, Multiculturalism and Youth Outcomes

Text: Multiculturalism, or cultural pluralism, has assumed increasing importance in an increasingly diverse world. Past research on multiculturalism has focused on varied, overlapping issues, including ethnic discrimination, diversity in the curriculum and school, diversity on college campuses, and ethnic heterogeneity. In this symposium, we will discuss how ethnic context and multiculturalism in school settings affect youth outcomes, both negative and positive by presenting the results of three research studies. The first presentation examines how the school context, specifically ethnic composition, affects individual drinking outcomes among ethnic minority adolescents. To what extent are individuals' drinking patterns influenced by the school mean of the individuals' ethnic group, and the ethnic diversity of the school? The second presentation focuses on multiculturalism (e.g., ethnic minority students' perceptions of support for cultural pluralism, including teachers' support of racial harmony) and the effect on psychological well-being among ethnic minority and immigrant youth. The third presentation explores the role of English Language Learner status for Hispanic immigrant students on behavioral and academic outcomes. Findings

indicate that English Language Learner status is associated with greater disruptive behavior problems, but not lower academic functioning or teacher-child relationships characterized by greater conflict. The discussant will comment on these findings with respect to prevention and policy implications.

Theme Groups: 1 Key social relationships

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