

MINORITY IDENTITY DEVELOPMENT: UNDERSTANDING THE PROCESS OF ETHNIC AND  
SEXUAL MINORITY IDENTITY DEVELOPMENT

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This study examined possible impacts that ethnic and sexual minority statuses have on individual identity development. Using qualitative (in-depth, personal interviews) techniques data were collected from 16 ethnic and sexual minorities. In addition, self-report indices were employed to supplement qualitative data. The pre-established measures used in this study included The Stage Allocation Measure, The Gay Identity Questionnaire, and The Multigroup Ethnic Identity Measure.

Thematic analyses procedures were used to analyze the qualitative data. Most participants reported experiencing some form of social alienation and/or discrimination because of both their ethnic and sexual minority statuses. In addition, the majority of participants discussed the significant influence of others (e.g. parents, co-workers, community members) on their self-acceptance and ability to incorporate both identities in various life domains (e.g. personal, social, occupational). Further results from both data collection strategies are discussed and implications of findings are presented.