



Growing up as an Afrodescendant in Greece: Young People's Experiences of Racial (Cyber)Bullying

A decolonial participatory study with Afrodescendant youth in Athens, using activism and counter-storytelling to examine racial (cyber)bullying as historically sustained and structurally embedded inequality.



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RESEARCH SUMMARY

This research centres Afrodescendant experiences of navigating and resisting racial (cyber)bullying. It reveals bullying as a cultural, political, and relational practice rooted in historical dehumanization, trivializing minority stereotyping, amplified online, and sustained by structural racism.

ONE KEY RESULT

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Rather than being passive 'participants', youth emerged as knowledge-holders, producing counter narratives to reveal, resist and challenge racism in public and online spaces in Greece. They used these creative outputs to engage peers, sharing them widely on social media, even drawing their racist bullies into these conversations.

KEY CONCLUSION

Racial bullying is a social process moving from ideology to action through institutions and digital spaces. It is socially taught, symbolically performed, systemically sustained, and reinforced structurally, not through isolated acts.

Afrodiasporic youth living archive and Anti-Bullying Collective

WHY IT MATTERS

Most anti-racism work rests on a "we are all humans" ideology that can pathologize bullying behaviours. If true inclusion is the goal, interventions must address systemic inequalities, not just individual behaviour.

Inside the Research

ABOUT THE RESEARCH

The study explored racial (cyber)bullying in Athens through participatory workshops and interviews with Afrodescendant youth and parents, co-producing knowledge led by youth narratives. Meaningful intervention must be built on lived realities, not methodological and theoretical assumptions.

STUDY AT A GLANCE

country: Greece
participants: 27 Youth and 10 Parents
age group: 13-18 (for youth)
method: Creative and arts-based workshops and in-depth interviews (for youth). Workshops and interviews (for parents)
focus: Deconstructing racial (cyber)bullying investigation through youth-led cultural research

FINDING 1

In-person bullying extends online via anonymity, virality, and algorithmic discrimination. Tech platforms censor Black voices and content.

FINDING 2

Black parents prefer children stay silent and not seek help after bullying because school heads discriminate them further.

FINAL CONCLUSIONS

Racial (cyber)bullying is a social performance, enacted through symbolic, verbal, physical, psychological, aesthetic, algorithmic, and digital practices that frame racial difference as deviance. Bullies are not born, but made: shaped by historical and colonial power structures, maintained through communities of practice, where racial codes are learned, shared, and normalized across generations.



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 Parents and Technology in Cyberbullying
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