Our Shared Future, Reckoning with Our Racial Past Forum:
Our Voices
Race and Lived Experiences

Forum Date: August 26, 2021

Video Length: 3 minutes

Graphics on screen
Our Shared Future Reckoning with Our Racial Past
Smithsonian Forum

Narrator

Graphics on screen
Reckoning with Race, Wealth and Wellness

Graphics on screen
Our Voices
Race and Lived Experiences

Graphics on screen
Lisa

Lisa
I would say I'm mixed white and Latina.

Graphics on screen
Jasmin

Jasmin
Asian American.

Graphics on screen
Gary

Gary
I'm white.

Graphics on screen
Alex
Alex
I identify mostly with the African American race.

Eryn
White. Jewish.

Anirudh
Indian.

Shanti
Other.

Jaiden
In Nigeria, I was just a person. In America, I'm a Black person.

Viviana
I remember in elementary school, I don't know what my teacher said to me exactly, but it was something really derogatory about being mulatto. I didn't know what mulatto was, I was like what's a mulatto?

Anirudh
Something like oh, Indians are hairy or we smell different.

Timothy
I got suspended for three days because a white kid told the teacher that I stole 10 cents from him, then the same kid ended up stealing something else. Only, he didn't get suspended.

**Graphics on screen**

**Soo**

There's a background of racism among Korean Americans because of lack of understanding.

**Graphics on screen**

**Shanti**

Racism is based on just people not accepting you at all and it has nothing to do with, you know, your skin color. It could be because you're disabled.

**Graphics on screen**

**John**

I asked a lady for directions. She immediately grabbed her child which had to be, like, seven or something and said, "We don't talk to them."

**Graphics on screen**

**Lisa**

Even though I'm half white, people don't see that. When I would go somewhere with my dad, who's--he's darker than I am, security would follow us. People would be like, "Sir, are you supposed to be parking here? Are you actually frequenting the store?" And whenever I went with my mom, it was like, "Oh, can we get you a changing room?"

**Graphics on screen**

**Gary**

Was trying a case one time...where I was representing a Black person and I had a judge who called me in the back room. "Why are we wasting time on this little 'N' case, why don't you just have him go ahead and plead guilty and get this thing over with where we can get to the more important stuff?"

**Graphics on screen**

**James**
During my teenage years, I had a chance that I could drive a tractor or work in the fields, and because of the color of my skin, I had to work in the fields, I couldn't drive a tractor. My dad explained to me that we are Black African men and we are workers of the fields.

**Graphics on screen**
Jasmin

**Jasmin**
I am not good at math. I'm horrible. I'm a decent driver.

**Graphics on screen**
John

**John**
You know how many times I was asked, do I play football? No, I did gymnastics.

**Graphics on screen**
Alex

**Alex**
You can do this because you're African American. No, I can't, because that's not what I do.

**Graphics on screen**
Eryon

**Eryon**
My experience with racism has been being married to a woman who is Black and Mexican. We used to work together and someone in our office, actually, was talking about how, in their opinion, Black people were less intelligent than other people and saying how this was scientific fact.

**Graphics on screen**
Jasmin

**Jasmin**
Growing up, I always wanted to be, you know, a European or not Asian at all. Now that I'm older, I have a huge respect for it, and I'm very happy to be who I am and proud.

**Graphics on screen**
Watch the entire forum and view additional resources at OurSharedFuture.SI.edu/race