

ROBERT F. HARNEY PROGRAM IN ETHNIC, IMMIGRATION AND PLURALISM STUDIES
MUNK SCHOOL OF GLOBAL AFFAIRS
2018 - 2019 HARNEY LECTURE SERIES IN ETHNICITY

Kate Choi

**Solidification of Ethnic Boundaries and
Retreat from Hispanic intermarriage in
the United States**

September 27, 2018 2:00-4:00pm

Room 108N Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy
(Trinity Site, 1 Devonshire Place, University of Toronto)



Abstract:

Prior work on the retreat from intermarriage usually treats Hispanic as a monolithic group, ignoring racial diversity within the Hispanic population. As a result, two questions of fundamental importance to the marital assimilation of Hispanics have remained unanswered: (1) did all Hispanic subgroups, irrespective of their race, experience a retreat from intermarriage? and (2) to what extent did the racial diversification of the Hispanic population contribute to their retreat from intermarriage? To address these questions, I document how the permeability of racial, ethnic, and national boundaries changed during the 1990s. My results underscore the heterogeneity in the marital assimilation of Hispanics. Not all Hispanic subgroups experienced a retreat from intermarriage. Rates of intermarriage with non-Hispanic Whites decreased among Hispanic Whites and Hispanic SORs, but they increased among Hispanic Blacks. Changes in Hispanic men and women's willingness to marry Hispanic partners of a different race also varied by race. The odds of intermarriage between Hispanic Whites and non-White Hispanics increased during the 1990s, while the odds of intermarriage between Hispanic Blacks and Hispanic SORs decreased during this time. Overall, these findings highlight the importance of considering race when studying the intermarriage behavior of Hispanics.

Kate H. Choi is a social demographer interested in the causes and consequences of family formation, namely how crossing social and national boundaries influence family formation and wellbeing. She contributes to this literature by pursuing two lines of scientific inquiry: (1) investigating how institutional opportunities and constraints arising due to international migration shape family formation and (2) examining how crossing ethnoracial, educational, and age boundaries in spousal selection influence the health and wellbeing of individuals and their offspring. Her work has been published in several renowned journals, including *Demography*, *Journal of Marriage and Family*, and *Social Science and Medicine*. She is currently Associate Professor at the Department of Sociology, University of Western Ontario.

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