

Dr. Nancy Segal's New Research Study Focuses On 'Pairs of a Different Color'

A new research study delves into the experiences of multiples born to mixed-background couples and the challenges of the parents who raise them. These are twins who differ in traits considered to be ethnic features and sometimes skin color. The study, titled "Pairs of a Different Color: What Extraordinary Twins and Siblings Reveal About Person Perceptions, Prejudice and Family Relations," and led by Dr. Nancy Segal from California State University, will be featured as a part of a new book.

"The media has written about these twins as though they are a new type of pair," Dr. Segal noted in a June 2017 article published in *Twin Research and Human Genetics*. "They are not – they are simply a variation of fraternal twinning, one that has become more frequent" given the increasing rate of new marriages in the United States between individuals from different races or ethnicities.

Dr. Segal added that the media has sometimes coined the term 'biracial' to describe this type of twins. Segal, however, explained she doesn't agree with that label, rather favoring the term, "biracial-looking."

"I realize that parents may be using better, more appropriate terms" Dr. Segal said, which is actually one of the questions asked of parents who choose to join in the study.

"No one has conducted a formal study or case analysis of the behavioral consequences for DZ (fraternal) co-twins who seem to come from different ethnic backgrounds," Segal continued. "...The unique value of these studies is that the family backgrounds of the twins are matched, more clearly revealing others' responses to the twins' different looks and how they may affect the twins' personalities and self-esteem."

The study will delve into the multiples' experiences at home, in school and in the community, and the special challenges of the parents who raise them.

"Helpful information for families raising such twins would be likely to emerge from such research," Dr. Segal added. "It is important to understand their experience, what these experiences reveal about family relation and prejudice, and the parenting challenges so we can assist families in the future."

Dr. Segal has developed a brief questionnaire for the study, and is wanting to interview identical and fraternal twins, triplets, and more, born to mixed race/background couples (of any age), their non-twin siblings (of any age), and the multiples' parents. Interviews can be conducted in person or by zoom. Find out more about Dr. Segal's project and how to connect with her on our website: https://multiplesofamerica.org/segal_research/, or contact Dr. Segal directly by email: nsegal@fullerton.edu or phone, 657-278-2142.

Dr. Segal is currently professor of Psychology at California State University, Fullerton, and Director of the Twin Studies Center. She has written seven books about twins, including *Deliberately Divided: Inside the Controversial Study of Twins and Triplets Adopted Apart* and *Twin Mythconceptions: False Beliefs, Fables and Facts about Twins*. Her newest book (her eighth one), *The Twin Children of the Holocaust: Stolen Childhood and the Will to Survive*, will be released March 21, 2023. And her ninth book, *Gay Fathers, Twin Sons: The Citizenship Case that Captured the World*, will be available in August 2023.



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Pairs of a Different Color:
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OR OVER ZOOM**