

Ethnic Ingroup Preferences: Evidence from *Come Dine with Me*

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Abstract

This study examines ethnic ingroup preferences using data from the television cooking show *Come Dine with Me*. Amateur chefs compete by hosting dinner parties. Contestants rate each others' performance and the host with the highest ratings wins a cash prize. The show is an unorthodox opportunity to study ethnic preferences in a high-stakes game environment. The results demonstrate the existence of ethnic preferences and attribute differential treatment to ingroup favoritism rather than outgroup hatred. The observed ingroup favoritism is likely a product of subtle or non-conscious behavior.