**Introduction**

**Why Narratives?**
- People create narratives as a way to understand lived experiences (Fivush 2010)
- Autobiographical reasoning within personal narratives about major life events helps create the life story that will become identity (Banks and Salmon, 2013)
- Developed over a lifetime, that narrative identity becomes every person’s unique “you” (Reese et. al., 2016)

**Why Ethnicity?**
- How individuals create and derive meaning, varies across culture (Reese et. al., 2016)
- Eastern cultures tend to emphasize goals that vary across culture (Reese et. al., 2016)
- Having the ability to create that “you” through the integration of life events with the self

**Why Self-Event Connections?**
- Having the ability to create that “you” through the integration of life events with the self carries implications for well-being (Pasupathi and Mansour, 2006)

**Objectives**

1. **A) Are there differences across ethnicities in the number of self-event connections made?**
2. **B) Do the type of connections vary depending on ethnic ancestry**

**Participants**
- 145 Community-recruited Adults (age 18-24) recruited through Amazon MTurk
- 221 College-recruited Adults (age 18-24) recruited through Emory SONA
- 310 selected and combined across samples for analyses based on self-identification as African, Asian, or European

**Procedures**
- As part of a larger data collection, including multiple narratives and multiple self-report surveys; this study focused on challenge narratives
- Ryff’s (1995) Scale of Psychological Well-Being; 54 items; 6 subscales: Autonomy (α = .78), Environmental Mastery (α = .87), Personal Growth (α = .85), Positive Relationships (α = .84), Sense of Purpose (α = .82), and Self-Acceptance (α = .89); this study focused on personal growth

**Method**

**Objective 1 Results**

1. **A) Analysis: A crosstabulation of ethnicity with whether or not a participant made a connection**
2. **B) Analysis: analysis of variance on number of self-event connection for those who made at least one connection**

**Findings**
- Levels of self-reported personal growth do not vary across ethnicities, but the number and types of self-event connections made within challenge narratives – if any – are varied, and carry different meaning depending on ethnicity

**Discussion**

**Implications**
- Within self-event connections, nuances exist that should be further explored
- The lack of cross-cultural data in narrative/self-event connection literature creates a significant deficit in the literature that prompts further research

**Limitations**
- Data was not collected to study ethnic differences
- Individuals made fewer total connections in general

**Future Directions**
- Cross-cultural research
- Research on different types of connections across multiple narrative types

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