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*Promoting Academic Achievement and  
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*Constructing and Testing a Multiple  
Theory Orientated Model of Juvenile  
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*Building Nietzsche, Durkheim,  
and Weber: An Exercise in Cultural Theory  
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**Randi L. Miller** (Promoting Academic Achievement and Racial Understanding: Strategies for Creative Programming to Help Resolve the Dilemmas of Integrated Education) is Associate Professor of Sociology and Coordinator of the Human Services Program at California State University, San Bernardino. Her current research interests include race relations and education, the professional development of student teachers, interorganizational coordination for growth management in local government, and family policy development.

## PREDICTING SOCIAL TOLERANCE: RACE, GENDER OR ETHGENDER?

**Leslie Baham Inniss**  
*Florida State University*

*Mid-American Review of Sociology*, 1993, Vol XVII, No. 1: 1-15

*This study seeks to examine the effects of race, gender, and interactive ethgender identities on attitudes concerning legal abortion and social tolerance of various. The data come from the combined 1972-1990 General Social Surveys conducted by the National Opinion Research Center. Contrary to arguments that race is declining in significance and that race and gender identities are interactive, the results show that racial identity is still the most important factor in predicting the attitudes of black females. In comparisons of the four racial-gender groups, black females were more similar to black males than to white females or white males on all issues and an interaction term reflecting their ethgender position was not a statistically significant predictor of social tolerance.*

No other social or moral issue, except perhaps the civil rights movement, has generated as much controversy as the abortion question. Since the 1973 Supreme Court decision in *Roe v. Wade*, the abortion issue has produced strong political positions because it involves legal and moral questions as well as physical and mental health consequences. To the proponents of legal abortion, it also represents a woman's right to choose what to do with her own body.

Numerous studies have examined race differences or race and class differences in abortion attitudes. Luker (1984), for example, found that working class women attached more symbolic significance to motherhood and valued traditional family roles more than middle class women. However, very few have explored both race and gender differences. Those studies which found black/white differences in tolerance for legal abortion generally found blacks to be less tolerant than whites, either because of greater religiosity and other social demographic traits (Welch and Combs, 1982), region of the country (Secret, 1987), or cultural and political differences (Hall and Ferree, 1986).

Most of these studies used race and gender separately as control variables. Two studies examining abortion attitudes have noted gender differences among blacks (Hall and Ferree, 1986; Wilcox 1990). Hall and Ferree (1986), using data from the 1982 General Social Surveys, reported a gender gap among blacks, with black men being significantly less tolerant of legal abortion than black women.

Wilcox (1990), using General Social Surveys' data through 1988, found statistically significant race/gender differences with black men less supportive of

\*The author would like to express appreciation for the useful comments and critiques of earlier drafts of this manuscript from Issac Eberstein, James Orcutt and Jill Quadagno.