

Faculti Summary

<https://staging.faculti.net/cufflinks-photos-and-youtube/>

This video discusses the use of "third objects" as a research tool, particularly in studies involving emotional and sensitive topics such as race discrimination and microaggressions experienced by Black students in elite UK universities. The speaker notes that their interest in this topic emerged from observing a lack of diversity in these institutions and wanting to understand the unique experiences of Black African Caribbean students.

Third objects help children and participants deflect attention from personal trauma, allowing them to discuss sensitive issues more openly. The speaker exemplifies this method through a study that involved interviewing 15 Black British students about their experiences of discrimination in universities, employing qualitative methods.

A key finding indicates that Black British students tend to underreport experiences of discrimination when asked directly. However, using third objects—including a humorous YouTube video—allowed participants to reflect on their experiences without feeling victimized, facilitating deeper conversations.

The speaker emphasizes the cultural differences in discussing race and discrimination in the UK versus the US, noting that British students often avoid openly discussing racism. They conclude that third objects are beneficial beyond childhood contexts and suggest that involving participants in choosing their own objects could yield even richer data in future research.