Aspects of identity [Analysing Identity: Chapter 1 © Peter Weinreich]

For the background discussion of the rationales for the following distinctions made concerning salient aspects of identity see Analysing Identity. Given the definition of one’s overall identity, component aspects are defined as follows:

Ethnic identity

*One’s ethnic identity is defined as that part of the totality of one’s self-construal made up of those dimensions that express the continuity between one’s construal of past ancestry and one’s future aspirations in relation to ethnicity.*

Racial identity

*One’s racial identity is defined as that part of the totality of one’s self-construal made up of those dimensions that express the continuity between one’s construal of past racial features and one’s future aspirations in relation to racial characteristics.*

Gender identity

*One’s gender identity is defined as that part of the totality of one’s self-construal made up of those dimensions that express the continuity between one’s construal of one’s past gender and one’s future aspirations in relation to gender.*

Socio-economic class identity

*One’s socio-economic class identity is defined as that part of the totality of one’s self-construal made up of those dimensions that express the continuity between one’s construal of one’s past position and one’s future aspirations in relation to class.*

Familial identity

*One’s familial identity is defined as that part of the totality of one’s self-construal made up of those dimensions that express the continuity between one’s construal of one’s past position and one’s future aspirations in relation to familial status.*

Hybrid identity

*One’s identity is termed ‘hybrid’ when one’s origins are construed as dimensions derived from different ethnic or racial parental constituents, and continue to be construed as future aspirations expressing multiple distinctive origins.*
Yearning identity

One’s identity is termed ‘yearning’ when one’s origins are construed as dimensions without known parental antecedents, and continue to be construed in terms of future aspirations expressing yearned-for resolution about origins.

Migrant ancestral identity

One’s identity is termed ‘migrant ancestral’ when one’s origins are construed as derived from a migrant ethnic ancestry, and continue to be construed as future aspirations to express a distinctive ethnic origin.

Displaced indigenous identity

One’s identity is termed ‘displaced indigenous’ when one’s origins are construed as derived from an indigenous ethnic ancestry displaced by conquest, and continue to be construed as aspirations to express a distinctive indigenous origin.