

# Mediating Role of Other Group Orientation on the Associations between Ethnic-Racial Identity Attitudes and Civic Engagement



## Introduction

- The period of adolescence in one's life is critical for development, especially for identity and forming a sense of self (Erikson, 1968). For adolescents of color, the development of their ethnic-racial identity (ERI) is a key part of maturation. ERI reflects how individuals understand and feel about their own ethnic or racial group membership, as well as how they view and are willing to understand people from other groups (i.e., other-group orientation [OGO]; Worrell, 2020; Worrell et al., 2021).
- Prior research has shown that cultural socialization in childhood can predict greater ERI exploration, which tends to lead to more civic engagement (i.e., an individual's willingness to participate in their community to benefit others and the future of the community) in an individual (Santana et al., 2024).
- However, the current research on these associations mainly represents Black and Latinx adolescents, with very little data on Asian American or Chinese American adolescents (CAA). There has been some evidence showing Asian American and Chinese American youth with positively affirmed ERI are associated with higher civic engagement, but findings are inconsistent (Kiang et al., 2022; Zong et al., 2024; Zhang et al., 2025; Niwa et al., 2024).
- Little is known regarding the mechanisms linking ERI to civic engagement in Chinese American adolescents, so we test whether OGO could act as a mediator in this relationship.

## Methodology

Adolescents between ages 13-19 who self-identify as Chinese American were recruited to participate in 2024-2025 through snowball and convenience sampling. To measure ERI attitudes in our survey, we used the Cross Ethnic-Racial Identity Scale—Youth (CERIS-Y), a 24-item self-report measure which assesses attitudinal dimensions of ERI among adolescents: Assimilation, Miseducation, Self-Hatred, Anti-Dominant, Ethnocentricity, and Multiculturalist Inclusive (Worrell et al., 2020).

We conducted path analysis using bias-corrected bootstrapping (N=5000) to examine the direct link between ERI attitudes and civic/political participation, and an indirect link through OGO among CAA in the U.S. (N=133, Mage = 15.57; 60.2% girls).

## Results

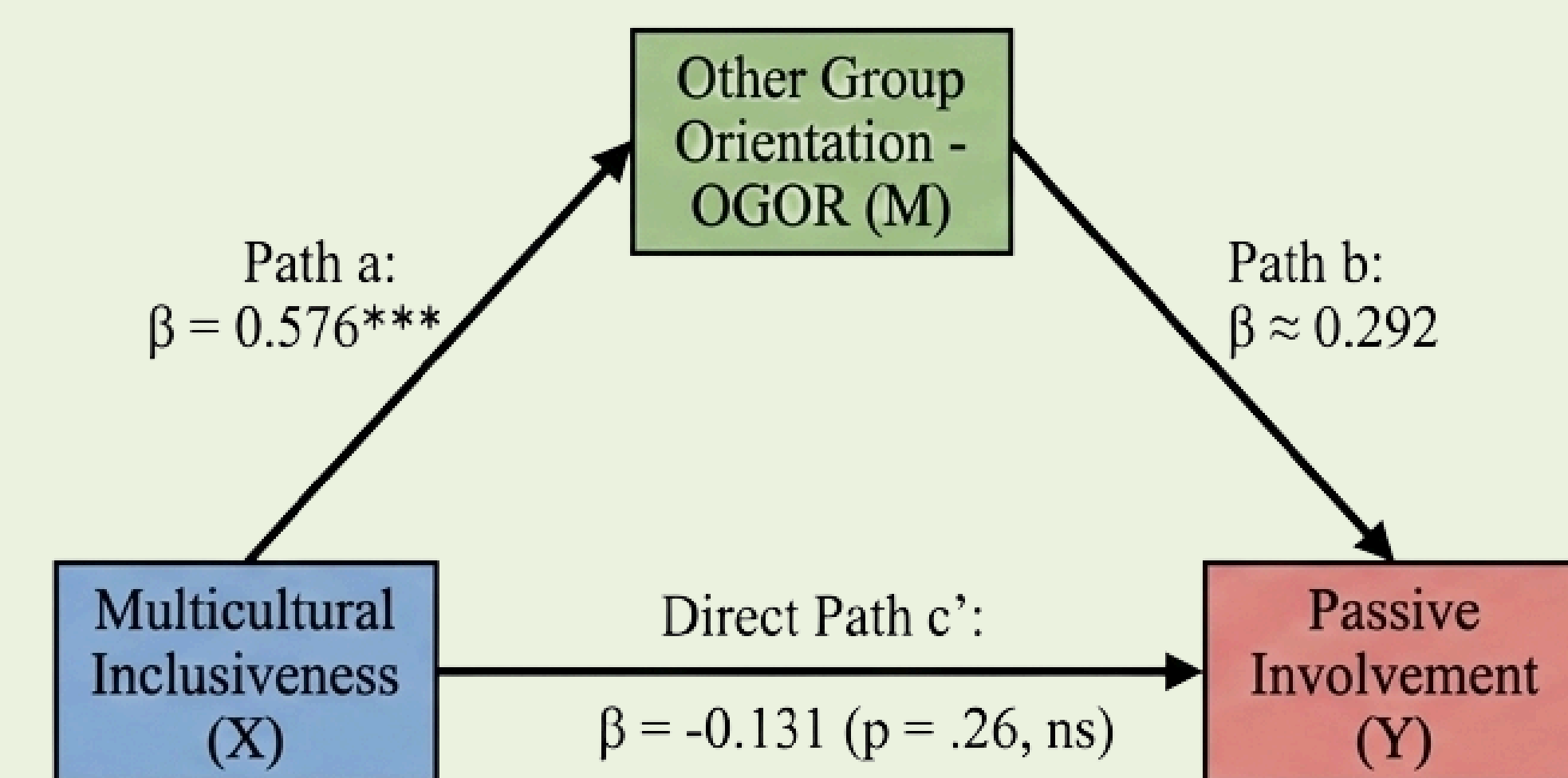
### Indirect effects through OGO:

- Multiculturalism → community (e.g., participation in clubs;  $\beta = .13$ )
- Multiculturalism → helping (e.g., providing assistance to individuals;  $\beta = .18$ )
- Multiculturalism → passive involvement (e.g., donating money;  $\beta = .17$ )

### Significant direct effects:

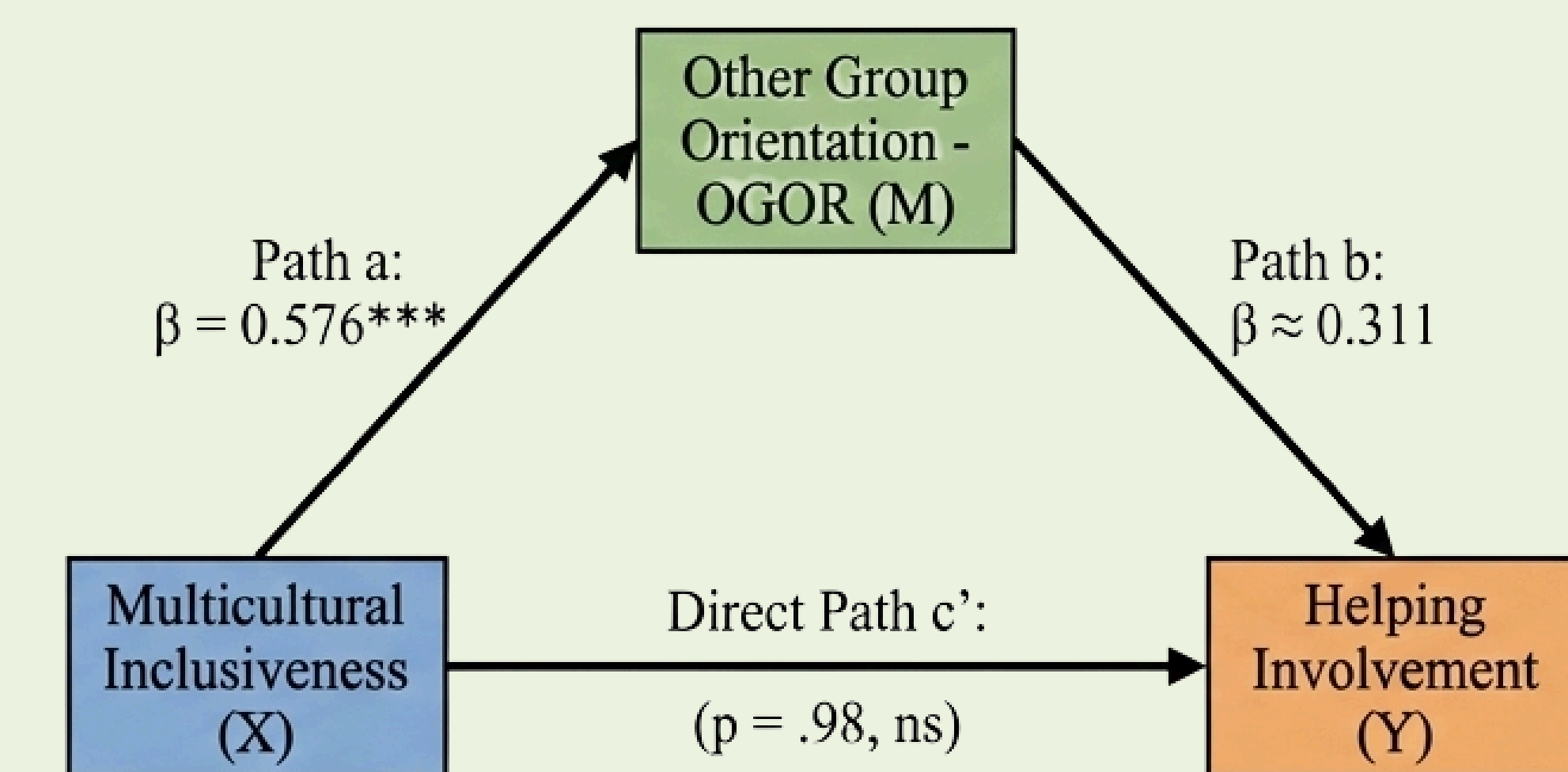
- Anti-Dominant and Self-Hatred → political actions (e.g., campaigning, protests;  $\beta = .54$ )
- Anti-Dominant and Self-Hatred → passive actions ( $\beta = .44$ )
- Anti-Dominant and Self-Hatred → helping actions ( $\beta = .36$ )
- Self-Hatred ( $\beta = .35$ ) and Miseducation ( $\beta = .28$ ) → passive involvement

Figure 1. Mediation of Multicultural Inclusiveness and Passive Involvement.



Indirect Effect (a x b) = 0.168, 95% CI [0.026, 0.259]  
\*\*\* $p < .001$ . ns = not significant. Values are standardized coefficients.

Figure 2. Mediation of Multicultural Inclusiveness and Helping Involvement.



Indirect Effect (a x b) = 0.179, 95% CI [0.054, 0.262]  
\*\*\* $p < .001$ . ns = not significant. Values are standardized coefficients.

Figure 3. Mean ERI Attitude Scores

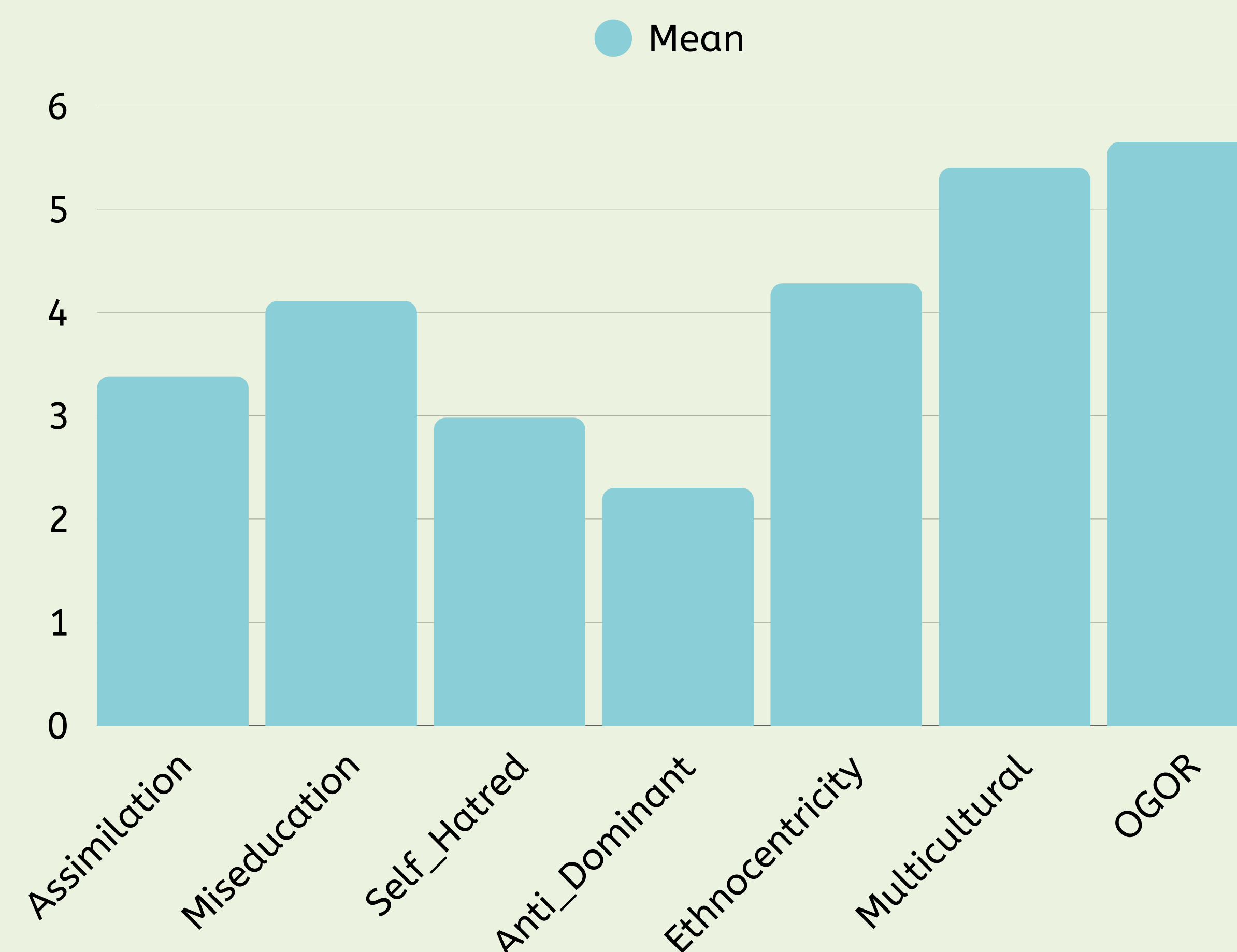
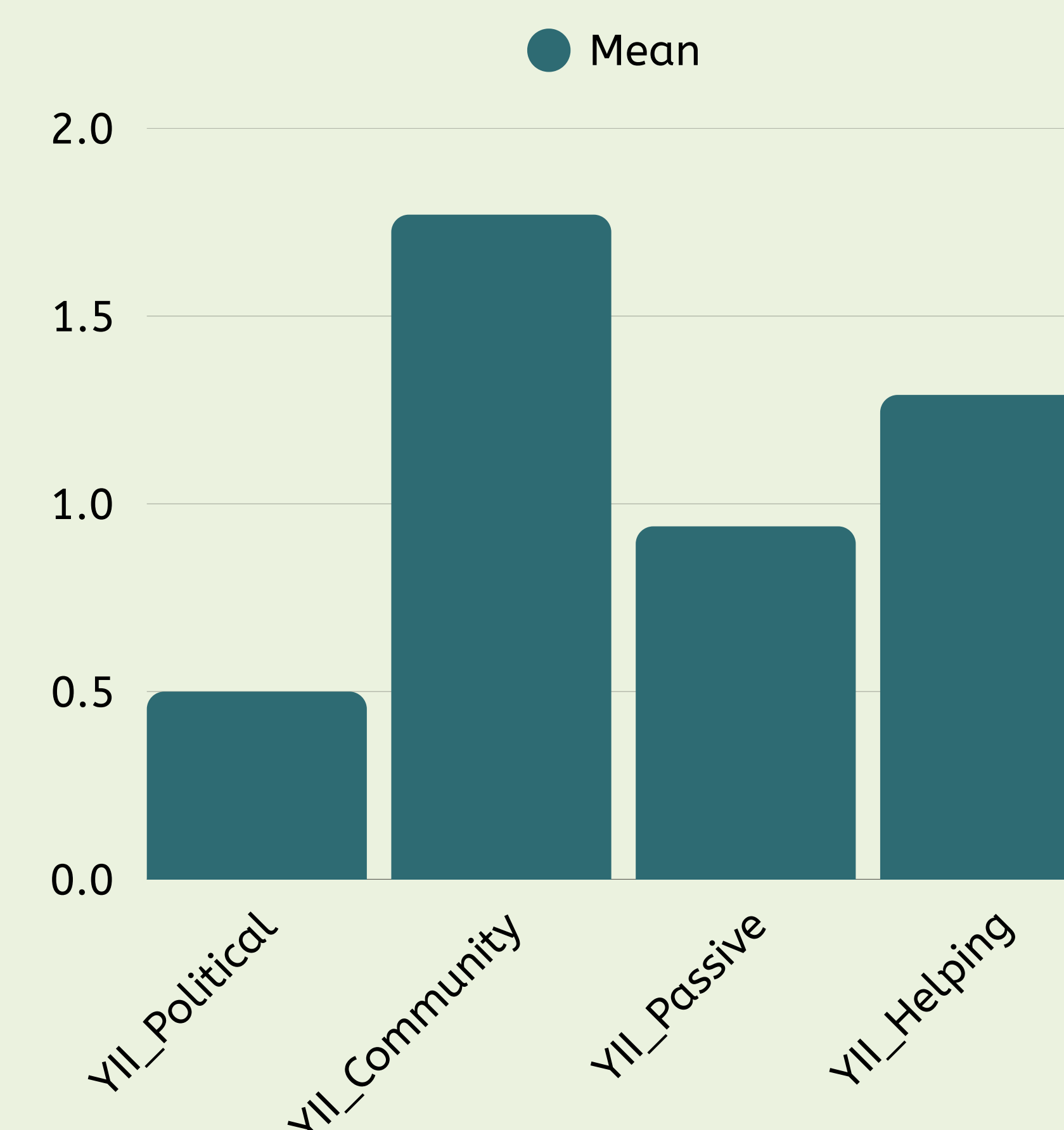


Figure 4. Mean Civic Engagement Scores



## Acknowledgements

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## References



## Discussion

- OGO as a Critical Bridge: OGO mediates the relationship between multicultural inclusiveness and civic behaviors like helping and passive involvement. This suggests that valuing diversity can lead to community action when paired with a positive orientation toward other groups.
- This research fills a significant gap in the literature by focusing on Chinese American adolescents, a group often underrepresented in studies of ERI and civic engagement.
- Clinical Application: To increase community-based helping behaviors, youth programs should focus on fostering Other-Group Orientation as the necessary catalyst to translate multicultural values into action.