

Ethnic & Racial Participation in Leisure: Introducing a Systems Model

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**PARKS, RECREATION AND
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Today

- To introduce a **systems model of ethnic and racial constraints** to leisure participation
 - Recreation Systems Theory
 - Ethnic & Racial Constraints
 - Our Study
 - Findings & Implications

Purpose

Literature
Review

Methods

Results

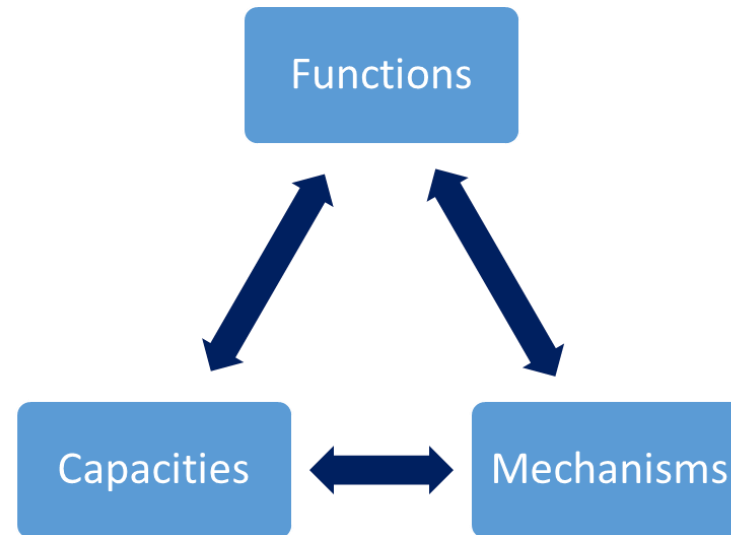
Implications

Future
Directions

More & Averill, 2003; Hys & Kawrysz, 2014; Von Bertalanffy, 1950; 1968

Recreation Systems Theory

- Address's **specialization and fragmentation**
- Moves a theory to more holistic viewpoint



Duerden & Witt, 2010; More & Averill, 2003; Hys & Kawrysz, 2014; Von Bertalanffy, 1950; 1968; White & Klein, 2010; Zabriskie & McCormick, 2003

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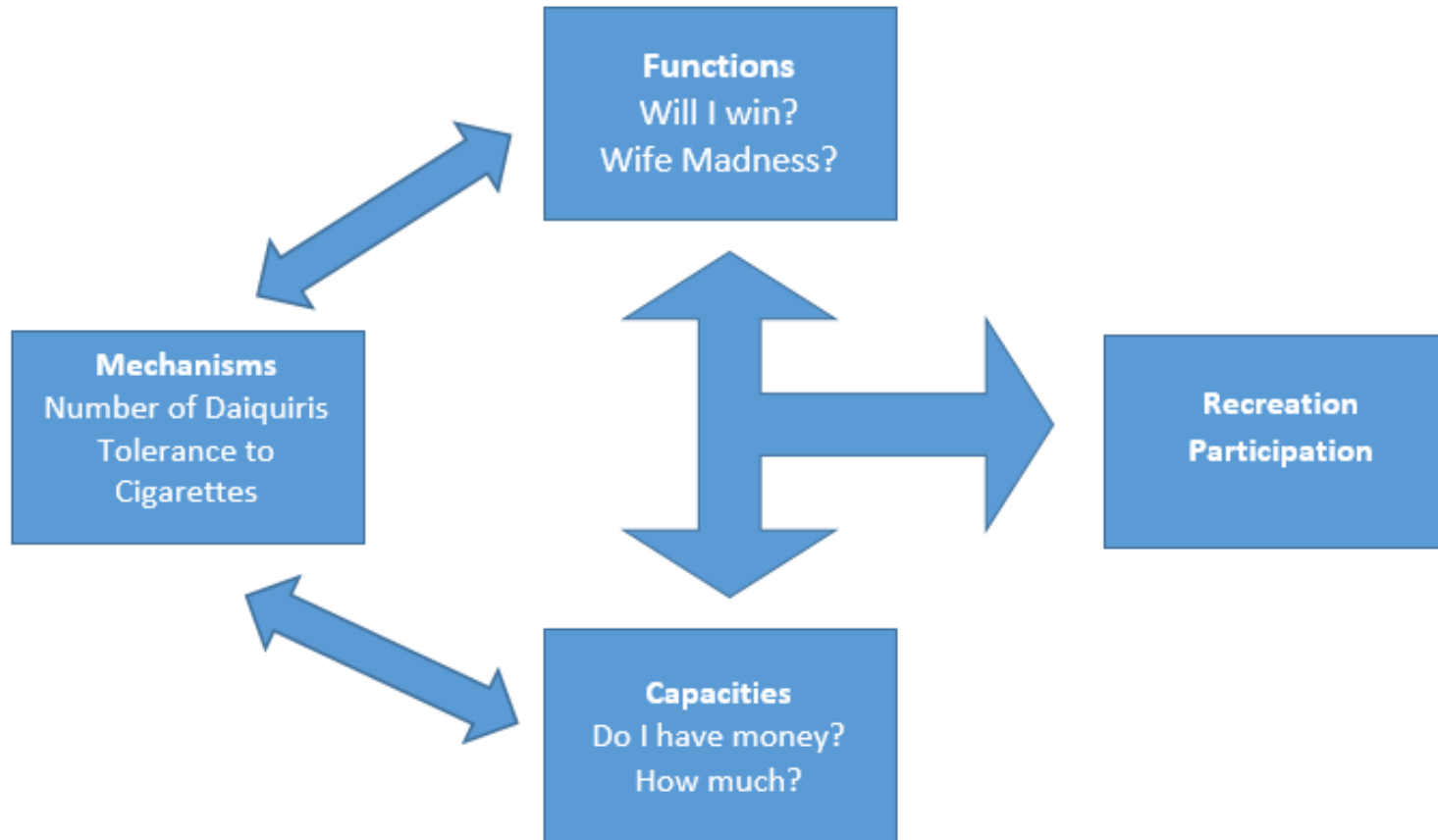
Components of Recreation Systems Theory

- Functions, the **purpose** or **product** of the system
- Mechanisms, how **functions** are **experienced**
- Capacities, the **abilities**, **capabilities**, or **constraints** of the system



Averill, 1990; Averill, 1992;
Averill & More, 1993; More &
Averill, 2003

An Example of Systems Theory... Vegas Style



Ethnic & Racial Constraints

- The **golden** versus the **platinum** rule
- Constraints explain **how** and **why** people are **inhibited** or **prevented** from participation in a recreation activity
- In an ethnic or racial context this includes levels of **ethnicity, marginalization, socio-economic status acculturation, and assimilation.**

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Crawford & Jackson, 2005;
Ghirme et al., 2014; Gomez,
2002; Stodolska & Yi-Kook
2005

Marginalization, Ethnicity, and SES

- **Marginality**, the level of access a group has to a recreation activity due to **poverty, discrimination, and inequitable distribution**
- **Ethnicity**, what makes a group **unique**
- **Socio-Economic Status**, a **sociological and economic** measure of a person's **status**

Craig, 1972; Floyd & Gramman 1993; Ghimire et al., 2014; Li et. al., 2007; Shinew et al., 2006; Taylor, 1992; Washburne, 1978

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Acculturation, Assimilation, and Perceived Benefit

- **Acculturation**, the adoption of customs
- **Assimilation**, the conformity of a group
- **Perceived Benefit**, the perceived health and/or social benefits of an activity

Budruk & Stanis, 2013; Byrne & Rodgers, 2002; Gomez, 2002; Harrole et al., 2013; Lindsay & Ogle, 1972; Markides et al., 1990; Motley & Henderson, 2006; Taylor, 1992; Byrne & Rodgers, 2002

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Our Study

- 948 USAC members completed a 79-item electronic survey in the Fall of 2014
- Questions included demographic information, Likert style questions, and short answer questions.
- Topics investigated included parental roles, serious leisure, youth development, and ethnicity

Purpose	Literature Review	Methods & Procedures	Results	Implications	Future Directions
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Gagnon, Stone, Garst, Under Review; Garst, Stone, & Gagnon, Under Review

Our Study

- USA Climbing (USAC) – Clemson University collaboration
- *“From your perspective why don’t we see more ethnic and racial diversity in competitive climbing?”*

Gagnon, Stone, Garst, & Arthur-Banning, In-Press

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Method

- Content analysis of short answer responses: *Why don't we see more ethnic and racial diversity in competitive climbing?*

ID#	Response	Primary Code	Secondary Code
9 R_Dx8uIIAObYPtIs1	Money. Climbing can be expensive from the start, purchasing equipment and paying for gym time. Then you add in the cost of travel and it's too much. Statistically the minority makes less than the majority and this is a challenge.	8	
0 R_Bs2cxcph4ShM4wx	Cost and travel.	8	
1 R_1M5NPHcVGR2JDPA	What do you mean? I see plenty of racial and ethnic diversity in the competitive climbing community.	10	
	Money. It's expensive. We're a single income family and this year we can barely afford it. My daughter is stopping comps in part because she feels the financial stress is too much for our family. She's been to Nat'ls twice, so this is sad she feels the stress- but she does. Our coach has helped as much as he can.		

Buzan & Buzan, 1995; Glaser & Strauss, 1969; Hsieh & Shannon, 2005.

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Analysis

- We established 5 themes based on coding
- Multi-nomial logistic regression
 - (chi square = .681, $p = .409$, $df = 1$)
 - In this case non-significance is good!

Creswell & Miller, 2000;
Creswell & Plano-Clark, 2011

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Table 1.

Primary Ethnic and Racial Themes (N = 582)

Theme	Definition	Frequency
Exposure	Lack of experience or contact with the sport	119 (20.4%)
Resources	Lack of resources in terms of time or money	281 (48.3%)
Access	No climbing is available in areas with diversity	58 (10%)
Culture	It is a white sport; Climbing is not inclusive to new users	84 (14.4%)
Alternative Perspectives	It isn't a problem; It doesn't matter	40 (6.9%)

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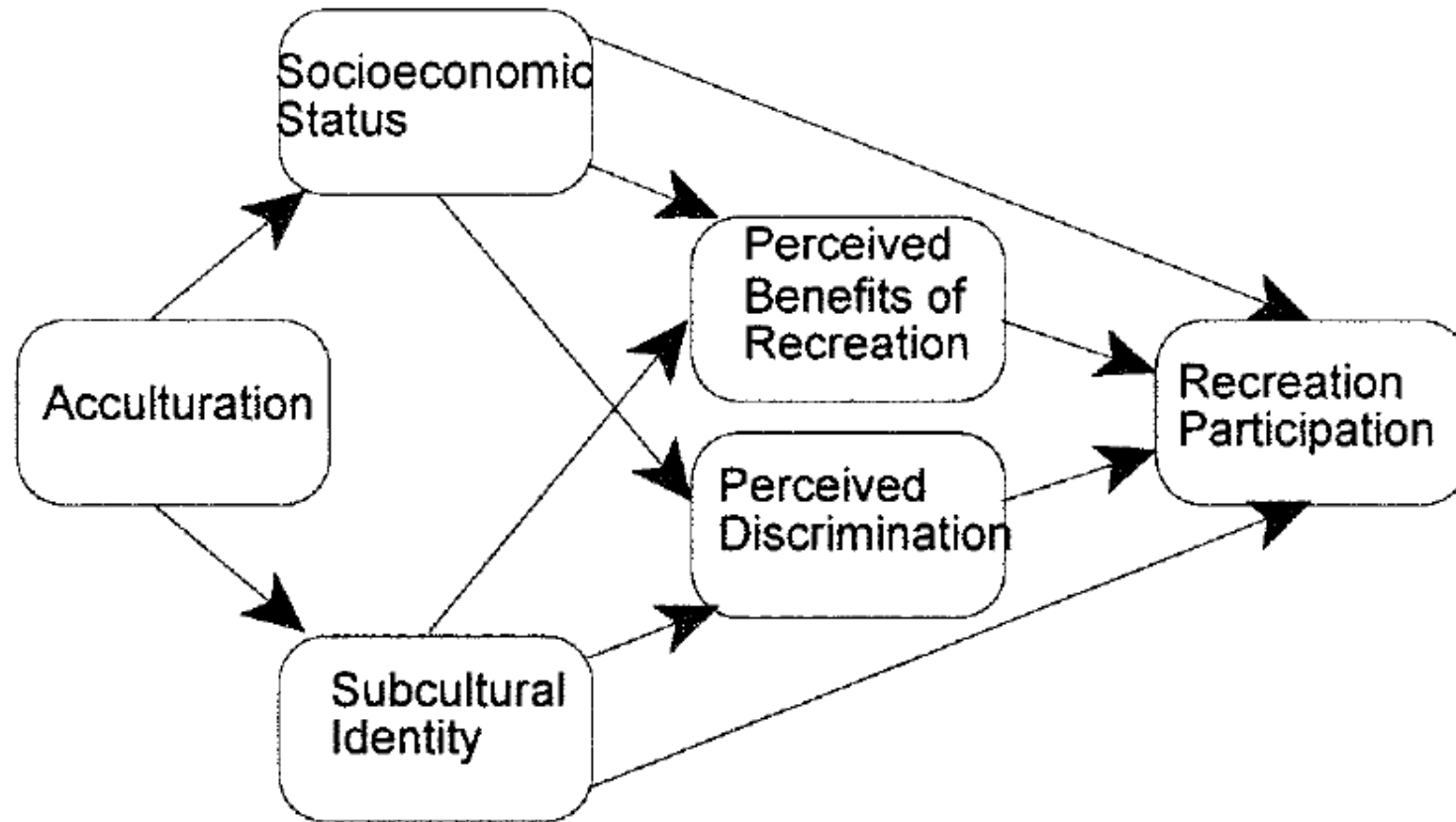
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The Ethnicity & Public Recreation Participation Model



Gomez, 2002; 2006

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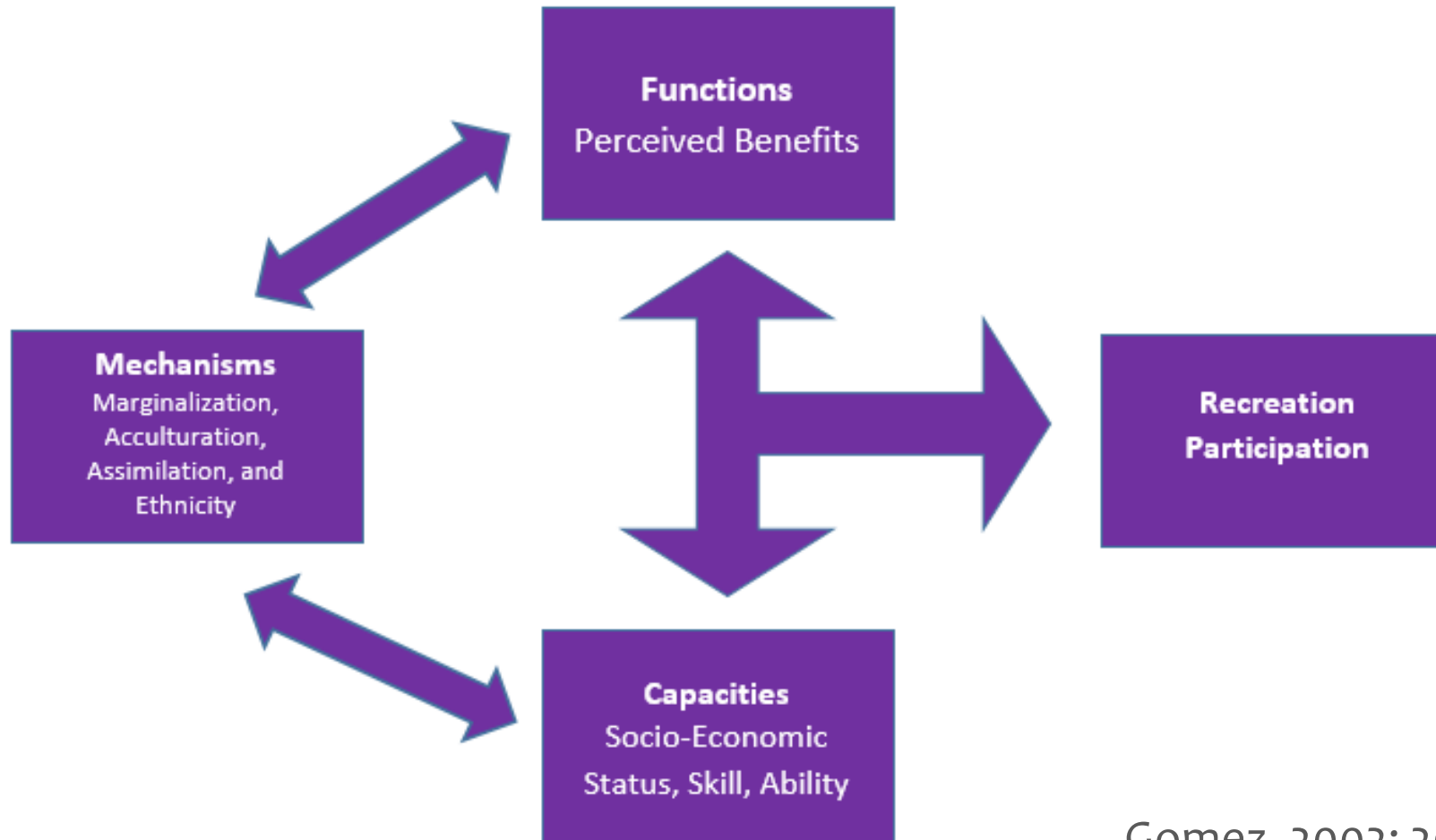
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Implications
& Discussion

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A Recreation Systems Model of Ethnic Constraints



Gomez, 2002; 2006; More & Averill, 2003

Discussion

- This work is both integrative of **data** and builds off **past research**
- The model allows for a **systematic analysis** of a recreation activity
- At the end of the day this model is both **comprehensive** and **simple**
 - **Thus continuing the bridge of research and practice**
- It promotes **consistency and replication** in research over time

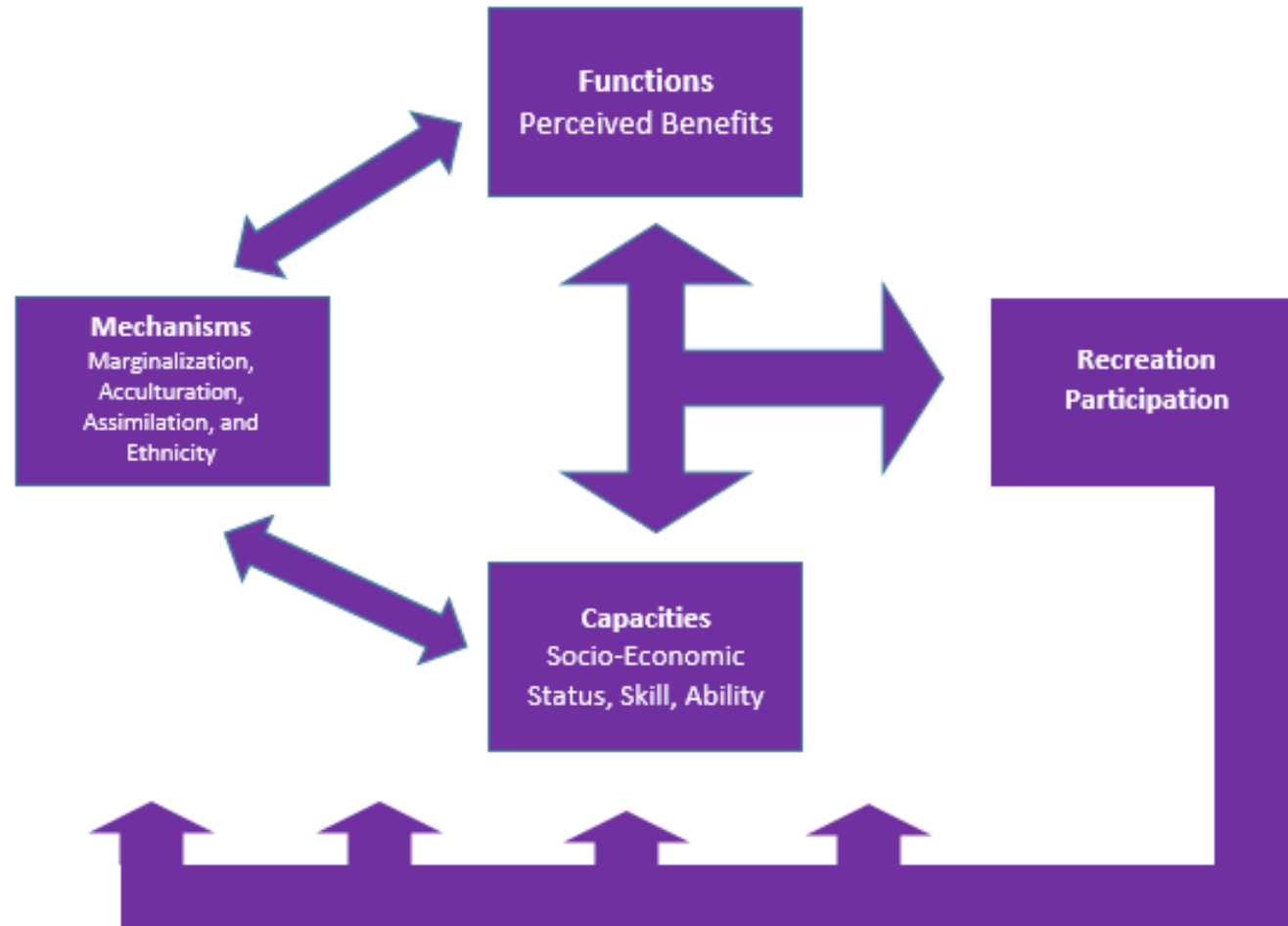


Limitations

- Data was limited to one question
- Cross-sectional
- The sample was 88% white
- The research team were all climbers, what would non-climbers find?



Future Directions



Future Directions



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