

**DISCOVERABLE AT
WHAT COST?:**

**EXPLORING ISSUES RELATED
TO ARCHIVAL DESCRIPTION
OF MIXED RACE PEOPLE**

AGENDA

- Introduction: Mixed Race in the United States and in Archives
- Literature Review: Archives
- Literature Review: Broader Library Field
- Critical Mixed Race Studies
- Key Theories
- Preliminary Takeaways
- Research Next Steps



MIXED RACE IN THE UNITED STATES




Biographical Information:

Captain Alv Kulstad was born Peter Alv Kulstad in Trondheim, Norway in 1895. He attended Trondheim Navigation School, served in the Royal Norwegian Navy during World War I, and then made his living working on a number of ships. He met Helen (Nellie) Thomas while in Shanghai and the two were married in 1928.

Helen was an American born in 1899 in Chemulpo (Inchon), Korea to a Japanese mother and American father. Alv and Helen had three sons together, Olav (Ollie) born in 1930, Peter born in 1932, and George born in 1935. Peter died of dysentery in early childhood.

While living in Shanghai Alv Kulstad served in the Shanghai Volunteer Corps from February 1927 until 1935, when he began working as First Mate on the ship *Li Liang* . In 1938 he was transferred to the dredger *Chien She* . He was initially assigned the job of acting Captain of the *Chien She* in 1940, but soon became Captain. During his tenure as Captain, he and the rest of the ship's crew were interned on the *Chien She* by the Japanese from 1942 to 1944. After World War II, Alv Kulstad worked on the SS *George R. Holmes*, the SS *Trans Ocean* as a Captain, the SS *Grays Harbor*, and the SS *Casa Grande*.

While living in Shanghai, George and his older brother Ollie attended Catholic school Saint Francis Xavier College. Ollie later went to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology for an academic year, starting in 1948. When the Communists took over Shanghai in 1949, Helen and George left China on the SS *General Gordon*, eventually settling in Stockton, California, where Ollie and Alv later joined them.



Are current descriptive practices adequately describing mixed race individuals and enabling discovery?

Can the fields of Critical Mixed Race Theory and Mixed Race Studies provide guidance on how to enhance description and discovery of archival materials documenting the experiences of mixed race individuals?

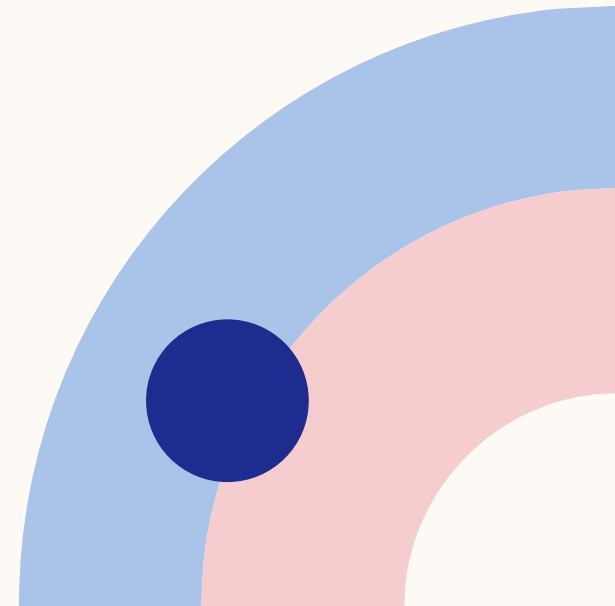
RACE

"race is a social construction and not a fixed, static category rooted in some notion of innate biological differences. The construction of race and racial meanings can be understood as part of a universal phenomenon of classifying people on the basis of real or imagined attributes....resistance to such oppressive practices also involves the creation of social categories of difference." (Omi and Winant 2015)

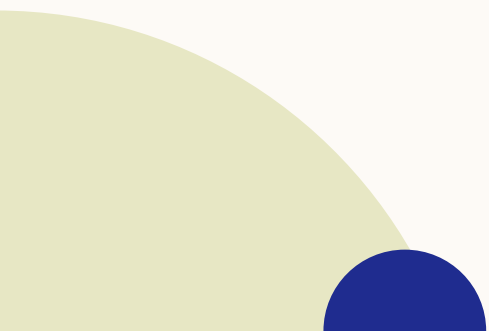
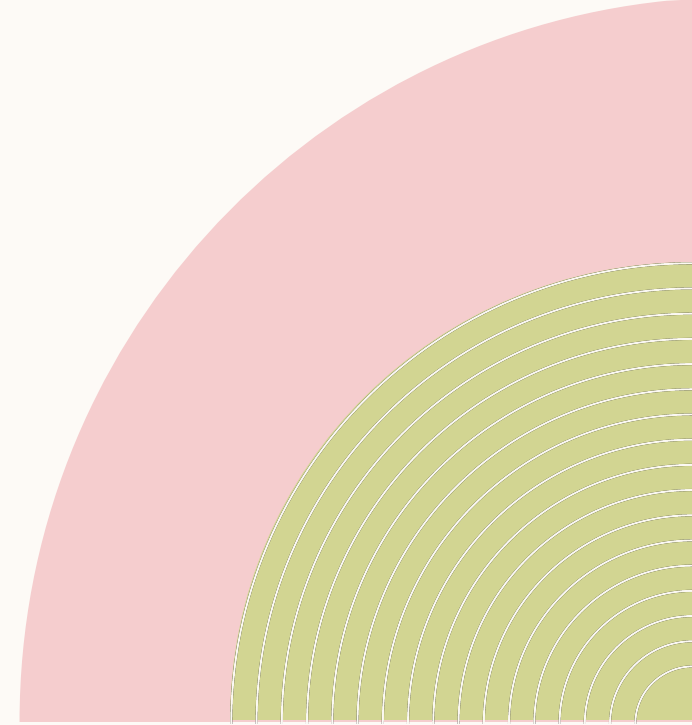
MIXED RACE

"'mixed-race' identity: To consider an individual or group as 'multiracial' or mixed race presupposes the existence of clear, discernable, and discrete races that have subsequently been combined to create a hybrid, or perhaps mongrel, identity." (Omi and Winant 2015)

LITERATURE REVIEW: ARCHIVES



LITERATURE REVIEW: BROADER LIBRARY FIELD



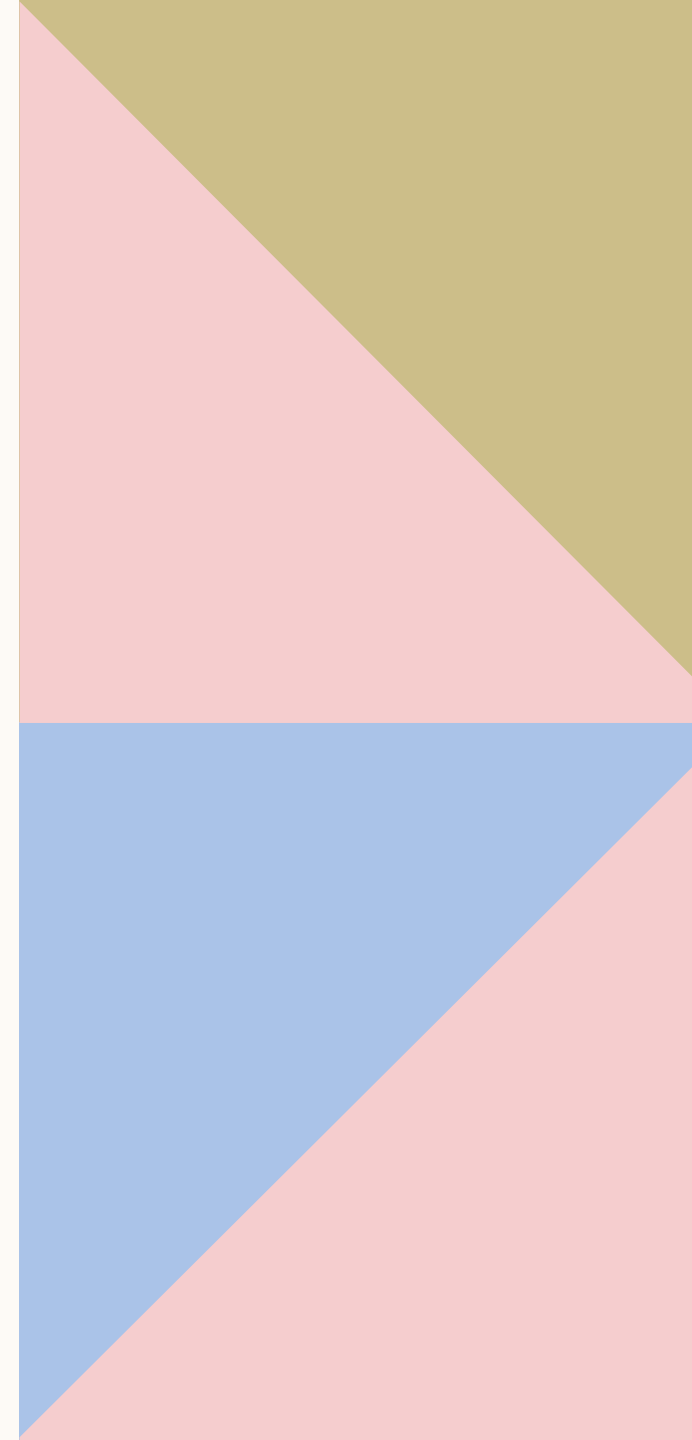


CRITICAL MIXED RACE STUDIES

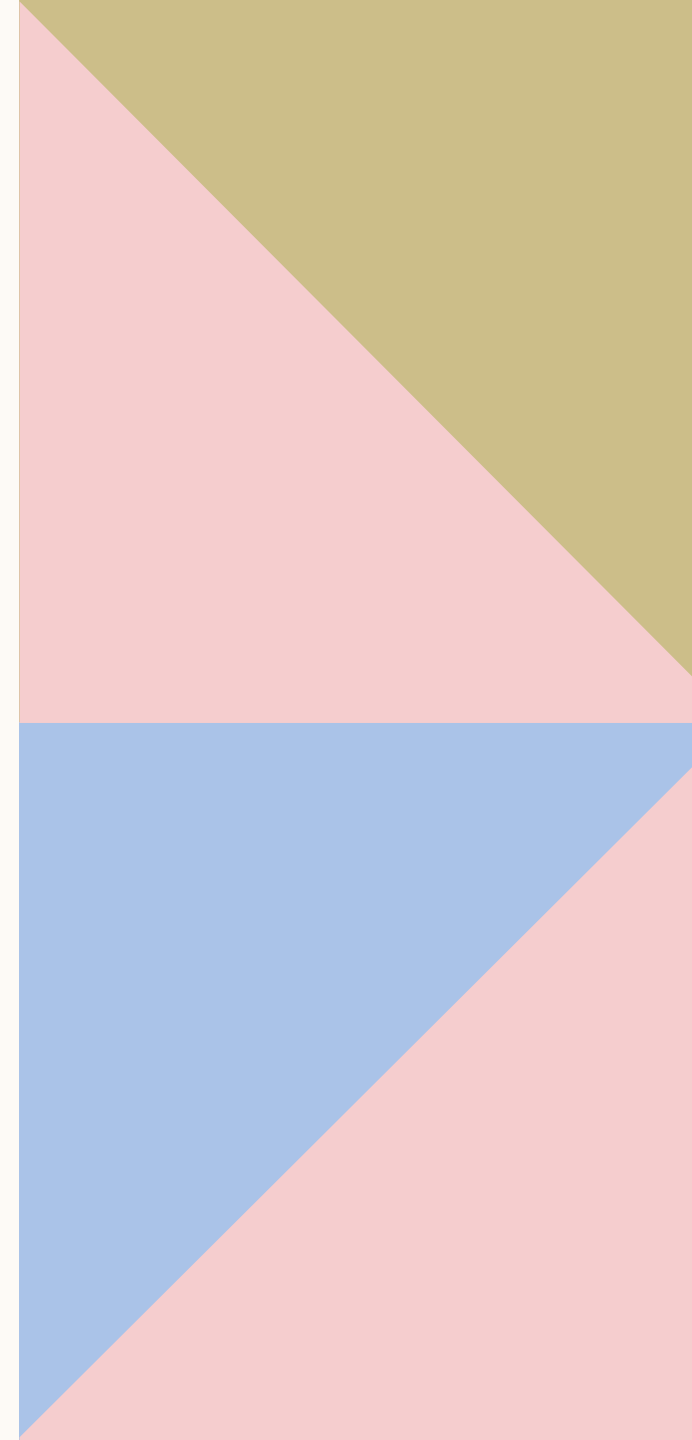


KEY THEORIES

PRELIMINARY TAKEAWAYS



**WHERE DOES THE
RESEARCH GO FROM HERE?**





**THANK YOU!
COMMENTS?
QUESTIONS?
IDEAS?**

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