

Social Statistics and Ethnic Diversity

Should we count?
How should we count?
Why?

foray into the Canadian winter

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Themes

- Ethnic mobility
- What is collected
- How data is used
- Individual versus group identity
- What it all means
- Where is it all going

Ethnic Mobility

- What is ethnic mobility
- Multiple ethnicity
- Shifting ethnicities
- Ethnogenesis
- Conflation of categories

What is collected

- Ethnicity
- Ethnic origin
- Ethnic identity
- Visible minorities
- Race and/or ancestry
- Nationality or citizenship
- Religion and language

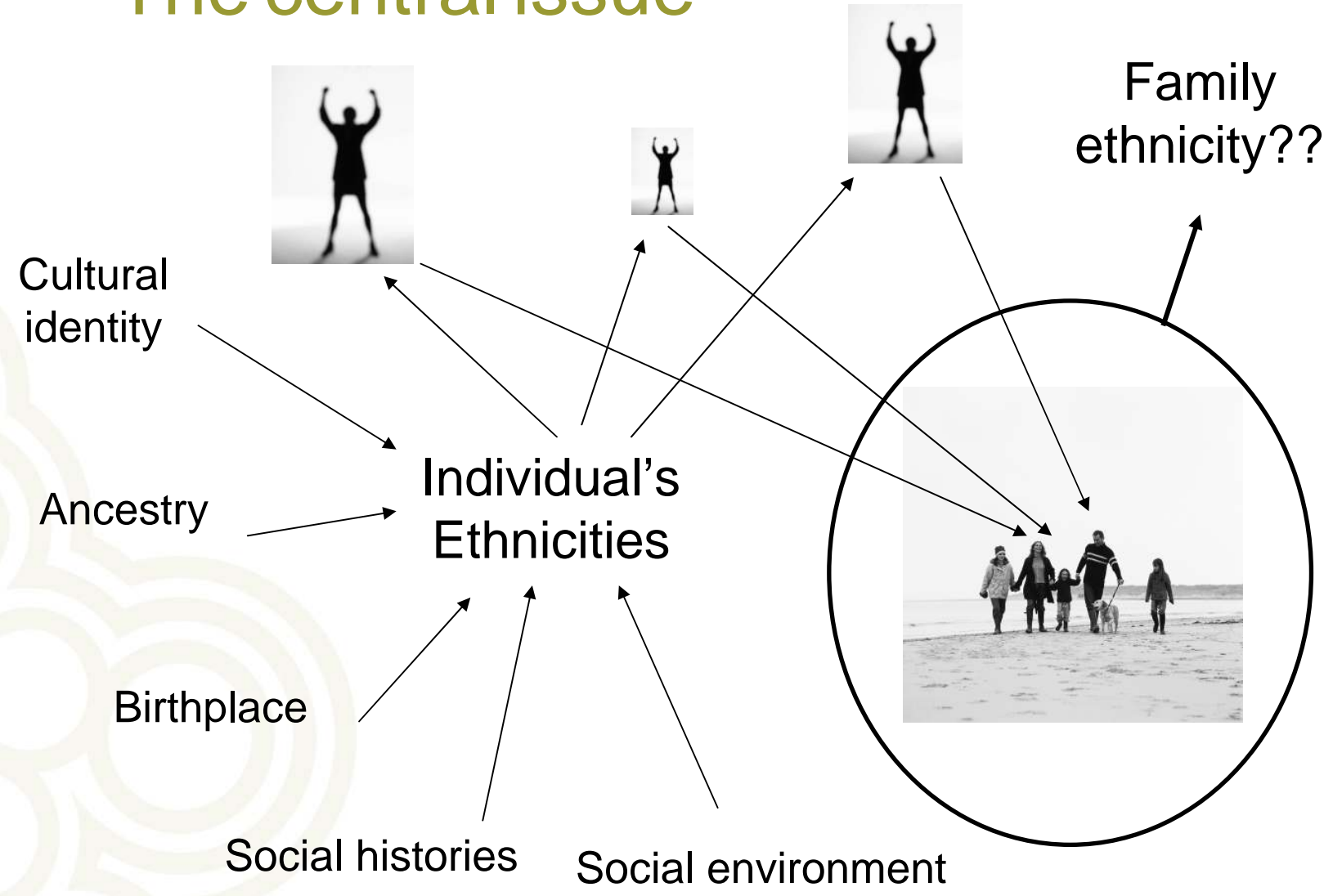
How data is used

- Anti-discrimination
- Social and economic inclusion
- Exclusion
- Monitoring
- Multiculturalism

Individual versus group identity

- Individual identities
- How people perceive themselves
- How people think others perceive them
- How others perceive them
- Group identity

The central issue



What it all means

- Very diverse range of terms and concepts
- Everybody chasing the same set of concerns
- NZ and Canada lead the pack
- Huge potential for dialogue
- Huge potential for misunderstanding
- Regionality in patterns of understanding

Patterns of culture and colour

- Ethnically blind, racially blind (France)
- Ethnically blind, race conscious (Sth Africa)
- Ethnically myopic, colour conscious (US)
- Ethnically aware, colour conscious (Canada)
- Ethnically aware, colour-blind (NZ)

Where is it all going?

- Ethnic mobility growing
- What is collected becoming more complex
- Trend is towards ethnicity with few exceptions
- Ancestry recognised as more problematic than ethnicity
- Political considerations important
- Social realities – class and skin colour
- Horses for courses

Conclusions – back to basics

- SHOULD we count?
 - absolutely.
- HOW?
 - sensibly, relevantly and explicitly defined.
- WHY?
 - antidiscrimination, but may also be misleading.
 - world is multicultural.

Contact

- Conference programme
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