



## Racial Justice Lunch and Learn Meetings

**Link:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D3hqYDFXs5I> (2022 [7mins])

**What's the difference between Hispanic, Latino and Latinx?** University of California

The video opens with young people celebrating Latinx as a gender free, gender inclusive term. There is vast identity diversity under the Spanish Speakers' wide umbrella: Hispanic (including Spain and the Philippines); Chicano/a (Mexican origin); a region, territory, or country (e.g., Caribbean, Afro-Caribbean, Puerto Rican, El Salvadorian, Central American); or even Tejano-- Mexican from Texas.

There is no monolith for Spanish-Speakers, and descriptive names have and continue to change. As Cristin Mora of UC Berkeley describes, there is fluctuation in what people call themselves and their reasons to do so. In the 1960's, Spanish-Speakers were not grouped in the US Census, and therefore no tracking was occurring regarding social status i.e., language, employment, education, and housing. "Latin American" had traction but there was concern that it conveyed non-permanence in the country. Because Black and white were already being used by the government, "Brown" was adopted by those wanting to create a coalition within the large umbrella group that spanned the east and west coasts and large sections of the south and southwest. "La Raza" or the race was viewed as radical and aligned with Mexican movements. In the end, the Nixon administration landed on "Hispanic" meaning having a historic or cultural link to Spain. By the 1990's, it was clear that of those categorized under the Hispanic umbrella, many did not think of themselves as connected to Spain; people felt a greater connection to being colonized by that country than connected to it.

Latinx comes from a younger generation that pushed for a gender-free inclusivity with the trans and non-binary communities. The x was intentional to remind us of the intersectionality of identity; Latine was another option. Mora explains, "[it] is a way of creating this transnational solidarity movement with much more progressive gender politics..." But there is still not one widely accepted usage of words. And many don't care; they care more about "The Latino Covid Death Crisis" where people living under the wide umbrella—disproportionately essential workers—died at higher rates and at younger ages. Data patterns were able to prove that—which is why collecting data matters.

**Link:** [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uCP\\_TkaMcL8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uCP_TkaMcL8) (2022 [5 mins])

**Hispanic, Latino, Latinx or Latine? Two Professors Share Their Own Preferences**  
[Georgetown University](#)

Two Georgetown University professors, Amanda Phillips and Ricardo Ortiz, discuss gender identity and the Spanish language, and to address: *"What's the difference between Hispanic, Latino, Latina, Latinx and Latine?"* As Ortiz explains, "Each one of these terms really does have a kind of historical, political, ideological, cultural, personal meaning that really depends on the

moment that it's used, depends on the context within which it is used. So, whether Hispanic is used by a census project to count people in a population that it wants to identify that way. So, Latino comes up because many people don't find themselves called by the term Hispanic because they're not of Spanish origin themselves racially or culturally or ethnically, there's a reason why we need to say Latino too-- at the same time Latino comes from a kind of misnaming of the Southern Hemisphere of the "New World" as Latin America, as though that Latinization was somehow less European and somehow less Colonial Imperial than Hispanic. So, they are all complicated."

*"Are gender-neutral terms like Latinx and Latine tailored to English speakers?"* Phillips who identifies as non-binary and trans begins with the acknowledgement that Spanish is the colonial language but offers that, "Among Mexican or Chicano queers... another counter argument is that, well X is part of Indigenous languages in Mexico and therefore it is not colonial... it's decolonial... I think that none of these are the entire truth... You can never get to the one true meaning of the X.. These can all be true at the same time."

What should we use with such a multiplicity of cultures represented? Clearly the answers should come within the diverse, native Spanish-Speaking cultures, versus from outside those cultures. Phillips explains that there are often proprietary reasons or questions around identity within cultural communities. There are, "reasons to be protective of who enters a community for safety, for a sense of belonging... it feels good to have something in common with people who are surrounding you."

Language and terminology are always changing to better reflect the needs of people to self-identify. Deep conversation about why language changes is part of that. Our job is to be open.

**Link:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TfIMWsJafOo> (2022 [3.5 mins])

**Do you say Latino or Latinx? The Journey of Self-Identity | Race and Culture** 

The final video highlights Spanish-Speakers' views on identity, and their beliefs and preferences regarding the terms Latin/a or Latinx-- including whether adapting the Spanish language aligns with set rules, or can expand to include issues of gender and sexuality, as well as ethnic identity.

**Link:** [Latino/a, Latinx or Latine? Conversation around Hispanic](#) (Sept 15, 2022 [3 mins])


KING 5 Seattle

As this video opens, several Spanish-Speakers name their identities and how they came to use their identity terms. They all then address the terms Latino/a versus Latinx or Latine and explain what understand or believe. The latter terms are heard from younger people in the community(ies) and reflect the intersectionality of culture, gender and sexuality. There is confusion, but the individuals agree that self-identifying and change is a conversation that reflects their myriad cultures.

**Additional Resources:**

[\(482\) Defining Latino: Young People Talk Identity, Belonging | NBC Latino | NBC News - YouTube](#)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z53SAxHMKs8>

The difference between 'Latine' and 'Latinx' | Hispanic Heritage Month (2022 [1 min]) 

[\(425\) What does it mean to "inherit whiteness?" | Code Switch - YouTube](#) (2022 [26.44 mins])

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uluJT1n2vRY> (2018 [12 mins])

**How Our Identities Are Socially Constructed | Florencia Escobedo Munoz | TEDxColegioAngloColombiano**

About the conception what identities are and how they are constructed. Tenth grade student at Colegio Anglo Colombiano This talk was given at a TEDx event using the TED conference format but independently organized by a local community. Learn more at

[\(428\) What's in a label -- Latino? Hispanic? LatinX? Spanish? | Hispanic Heritage Month - YouTube](#)