

What is your name?

Celine Thompson

What is your gender?

Female

What ethnicity do you identify as?

Bahamian

What race do you identify as?

Mixed/Black

Where were you born?

The Bahamas

Where were your parents born?

The Bahamas

Is your blackness unique or does it have similarities to other ethnicities?

It is unique but has similarities to my Bahamian ethnicity. The "blackness" that I identify with is not one that has been rooted in the African American society. I only ever thought of my "blackness" when I came to America. Race is not a huge issue at home because we all see ourselves as one despite the different skin tones. Yes there are visible differences to our skin but any prejudice or discrimination is not immediately forthright.

Do you feel like your blackness is questioned? If so, what aspects?

I would say it could be, simply because I cannot relate to the discrimination that I hear others face because of their "blackness". It is not something that I have experienced since I have been in Miami.

Do you believe there to be an implicit or explicit hierarchy of blackness? i.e. Is Afro-Cuban seen as lower than African-American in society?

I do believe there to be implicit hierarchy of blackness and I would say that African-Americans may be at the bottom of that hierarchy. This may be why those of African-American decent try to identify themselves as part of another culture than just "Black American."

Did you grow up in a house or apartment?

A house

How many people lived there?

5

Which of the following rooms were in your living space? Bedroom, Bathroom, Kitchen, Dining Room, Living Room, Den, Foyer, Library, Oice, Front Porch, Back Porch, Balcony, Basement, Laundry Room, Front Yard, Back Yard

Bedroom, bathroom, kitchen, dining room, living room, foyer, front porch, back porch, laundry room , front yard, back yard

What activities did you participate or witness in the kitchen or on the porch that is unique to your culture? If you did not have a formal porch, was there a communal space that acted as a porch?

In the kitchen is where my Grammy would cook and most of the dishes were native. On the back porch is where we would host family gatherings or I would play with my brother and/or cousins.

What type of non-conventional activities did you participate or witness in the kitchen, on the porch? If you did not have a formal porch, was there a communal space that acted as a porch?

In the kitchen: doing hair, having manicures/ pedicures done, studying and doing homework. Non-conventional activities that I witnessed on the porch (front or back) included my aunt smoking and my uncles drinking beer.

A Spectrum of Blackness

Interview with Celine Thompson  
by Gabriel Soomar

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What is your relationship to water?

I used to be a competitive swimmer so I basically lived in the water. Swimming in the sea however definitely has to be one of my favorite pastimes.

In what spaces do you feel liberated?

**When I'm home (my school apartment or actual home in Nassau), in the shower or alone in my room**

In what spaces do you feel restricted?

**Around my superiors (professors and coaches)**

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