The construction, negotiation, and transformation of racial identity in American football: a study of Native and African Americans

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KEY WORDS: identity construction, collective identity, identification processes, social movements, virtual identity. ABSTRACT The study of identity forms a critical cornerstone within modern sociological thought. The study of identity forms a critical cornerstone within modern sociological thought. Introduced by the works of Cooley and Mead, identity studies have evolved and grown central to current sociological discourse. In such a context, agency encompasses more than the control and transformation of one’s social environment. Rather, borrowing from Charles Taylor’s discussion of agency and the self (1985:287), I suggest that collective agency includes a conscious sense of group as agent. Further, collective agency is enacted in a moral space.