

Personal Observations in Tucson - Changing Demographics, Changing Attitudes

My general experience in Tucson varies significantly depending on the day, time, and location. When walking one-on-one on the street, interactions are often positive. While running, people are notably kind, frequently slowing down or giving space to let me pass. In hotels and more upscale environments, communication is consistently courteous and professional, and staff are warm and attentive. I also observe many friendly faces in these contexts.

By contrast, driving tends to involve noticeably higher levels of aggression. Racial slurs were directed at me in a parking lot in which I should have had the right of way. I witnessed severe hostilities towards homeless people. In retail environments, particularly while shopping, I have experienced repeated micro-aggressive behaviors directed toward me. Over time, I have adopted the personal boundary of limiting eye contact, as engaging visually has often felt exposing or uncomfortable, an opportunity to harm. These experiences occur most frequently in areas with predominantly the Spanish-speaking population, including individuals with limited or no English proficiency.

What I experience is confrontational, patterns of facial expressions, body language, and behaviors that convey intolerance, or hostility toward me as a white woman. This has occurred frequently enough, and across enough settings, that it feels systemic rather than incidental. I experience it as emotionally wearing, and tiring.

At the same time, I want to note important distinctions. I experience strong warmth, kindness, and ease of connection with elderly populations across communities, including elderly Black Americans and elderly Hispanic individuals. These interactions are often empathetic, respectful, and grounded in shared humanity. The elderly population, in general, is more gentle and considerate in public interactions. I feel Americans, especially elderly Americans are missing kind-hearted Americans in this area, this is my honest assessment. We feel relieved near other English-speaking Americans.

The contrast I experience is most pronounced within the 20s–50s age range, where interactions in some Hispanic-dominant areas feel strained or uneasy to me due to cultural differences and racial tension. While I cannot know individual intent, the cumulative effect of repeated microaggressions is tangible and impacts American sense of safety and belonging. Which is sad considering this is the USA.

I recognize that Tucson contains multiple cultures and realities, and that demographic and political shifts have been ongoing for the last several decades. My observations reflect how these shifts feel on a personal, day-to-day level. The flow of the population drives the general attitude. Though Tucson's population is not segregated, the hostility is enough to drive Americans to segregate, and *they do*. I feel these microaggressions lead to macroaggressions and constitute coercion and intimidation.

In general I feel the general attitude towards Whites in this region is **UnAmerican**. Hatred towards Whites should not be tolerated. Furthermore, entitlement to the region in which

Whites are discriminated against at mass levels should be called into question. The violence is witnessed on the radar daily, and the hostility in the air is palpable.