What is the Current of the River?
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Introduction

The National Research Council’s study on doctoral research programs (2007) in the US cited that approximately half of doctoral students complete their degree. The individual experience of minority students is essential to understanding the networks and resources utilized by students in higher education institutions.

Question

What is the experience of African American and Hispanic/Latino/a Doctoral students at the University of Pennsylvania?

Significance

The end result of this research study will shed light on the following points of interest:

- Attrition rates at the graduate level
- Improving the minority experience
- Information about networks and resources used by minority students
- Differences in experience by: age, gender, and ethnicity

Methods

The setting of the study will be the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, PA.

- Institutional Review Board approval will be sought
- Staff, faculty, and students of the institution will partake in semi-structured interviews after signing a consent form
- Students must have completed at least a year of study in order to participate in the study and be of African American or Hispanic/Latino/a background
- All interviews will be audio-recorded and transcribed

Background

Most of the research in higher education, regarding minorities, has involved one or more of the following theories:

- Capital Deficiency
- Oppositional Culture
- Stereotype Threat
- Peer Influence
- Attachment Theory
- Critical Theory
- Socialization

Contact Information

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More Information

If you would like to find more information about the research, please scan the QR code to the right and read the full-length proposal.

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