Summer 2012

What Is the Current of the River?

Karla Rivera
University of Pennsylvania

Follow this and additional works at: http://repository.upenn.edu/showcase_posters
Part of the Education Commons, and the Sociology Commons

Recommended Citation

This paper is posted at ScholarlyCommons. http://repository.upenn.edu/showcase_posters/11
For more information, please contact libraryrepository@pobox.upenn.edu.
What is the Current of the River?
Karla A. Rivera, University of Pennsylvania

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.

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

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

Contact Information
Email Karla Rivera: Karlar@sas.upenn.edu

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.

Acknowledgements
The author wishes to acknowledge the following individuals for their help and guidance with the process of the current proposal: Dr. Robert E. Lane, Dr. Rebecca Poyourow, Matt Young, Dr. Chenoa Flippen, Norma Fortis, and David Marrero.