

Study 1

The Impact of Racial Microaggressions and Intersectionality on Latina Doctoral Students: Implications for Policy in Higher Education

In the United States, 2% of the population holds doctoral degrees and 0.6% of those degrees are held by Latinx (U.S. Census Bureau, 2018a). In the category of Women with doctorates, Latinas hold the lowest percentage of doctorates, 7.3%, despite being the largest minority group in the United States (National Center of Education Statistics, 2016). Although research continue to grow examining microaggressions and intersectionality among LatinX, there is little research on Latinas completing doctoral degrees facing microaggressions combined with intersectionality in higher education and the adverse impact on their mental health. Using Critical Feminist Theory (CFT) as the theoretical framework and constructs of intersectionality and social dominance, this upcoming qualitative case study will highlight microaggressions of racism and gender experienced by Latina doctoral students and its impact of mental health. The aim of this study is to bring forth implications for policy change in higher education.