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Using Self-Determination Theory to Examine the Motivation of Ethnic College Students

Psychology

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The purpose of this study is to examine the relationship among academic self-concept, motivation and academic achievement amongst African American and other ethnic college students. Self-Determination Theory is used a framework to help understand college students academic motivation. Existing research in this area has tended to not focus much on ethnicity; yet preliminary information suggests that associations among academic self-concept, academic motivation and achievement of African American college students take distinct forms from other ethnic groups. This study uses the Academic Motivational Scale (AMS, 1992) to measure intrinsic and extrinsic motivation for college students, the Academic Self-Concept Scale (ASCS, 1988) to measure self-concept, and self-reported GPAs are used to measure academic achievement. This research is currently in progress and it is anticipated that the variations of intrinsic and extrinsic motivation, academic self-concept, and academic achievement vary according to ethnicity. This research is intended to be beneficial for educators so more colleges may be structured in a way that meet the motivational needs of all ethnic students. Data for this study will be collected using quantitative methods by conducting surveys using Qualtrics online surveying system.