Oral Defense Announcement
University of Missouri – St. Louis Graduate School

An oral examination in defense of the dissertation for the degree
Doctor of Philosophy in Education with an emphasis in Counseling

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M.A. in Education, December 2017, University of Missouri-St. Louis
B.A. in Science, May 2014, University of Missouri-St. Louis

Investigating Relationships Between Muslim High School Students’ School Belonging and Career Decision-Making

Date: November 14, 2023
Time: 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Place: Remote

Abstract

Muslim Americans have been subjected to systemic oppression and unjust experiences, such as discrimination, racism, hate crimes, and stereotypes, for generations in the United States. Although ample research has investigated relationships between systemic oppression in society and its impacts on marginalized students in public school environments, little research has directly investigated Muslim students’ school experiences. Additionally, studies and scholarship have explored the long-term impacts of systemic oppression on marginalized groups to develop a comprehensive understanding of minority groups’ experiences in the United States. In this study, we investigated Muslim students’ experiences in public high schools regarding their sense of belonging and other long-term experiences related to their career decision-making. Given the marginalized status of Muslim students, the social experiences investigated in this research are aimed to include the influences of systemic racism and discrimination. Using a sample of 180 Muslim students who attend public schools in the United States, we conducted a quantitative, descriptive, and multivariate correlational design to explore the relationship between perceived discrimination, sense of belonging, and career decision-making self-efficacy. Findings were largely consistent with our hypotheses that higher levels of perceived discrimination suggested lower levels of sense of belonging. Additionally, lower levels of sense of belonging correlated with lower self-efficacy in career decision-making.

Defense of Dissertation Committee
Chair: Mary Edwin, Ph.D.
Emily Brown, Ed.D.
Phillips Waalkes, Ph.D.
Rowhea Elmisky, Ph.D.