

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 Counseling Psychology, May 2003, Western Michigan University
B.A. in Psychology, May 2001, Morris Brown College

Relations Between Prior Racial Microaggressions, Expat Motivation, and Life Satisfaction Among African American Expat Women in Mexico

Date: April 18, 2024

Time: 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Place: Remote

Abstract

Microaggressions are subtle, everyday exchanges that send hostile or demeaning messages, adversely affecting the psychological health and life satisfaction of African Americans. Yet, the relationship between microaggressions and the life satisfaction of African American women who've moved abroad is under-researched. The motivations behind the contemporary expatriation of African American women are also not well-documented. Reviewing the historical migration, study abroad participation, and tourism of African Americans sets the stage to delve into recent expatriation trends. This study aimed to examine the experiences of African American women who've relocated to Mexico and to assess how microaggressions experienced in the U.S. relate to their life satisfaction. The correlational study sampled 111 African American female expatriates in Mexico. Given the non-normal distribution of dependent variables, data analysis employed bootstrapping to multiple linear regression. Findings didn't support the hypothesis that past racial microaggressions in the U.S. predict current life satisfaction abroad. However, a positive link between racial microaggressions and emigration motivation was confirmed, indicating that such experiences can predict safety and political motivations for moving to Mexico. Importantly, the study also found that a longer duration spent outside the U.S. enhances life satisfaction among these expatriates.

Defense of Dissertation Committee

Chairperson, Susan Kashubeck-West, Ph.D.

Committee Faculty Member, Angela Coker, Ph.D.

Committee Faculty Member, Mary Edwin, Ph.D.

Committee Faculty Member, So Rin Kim, Ph.D.