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Cultural–Ecological Theory of Academic Disengagement Used to Explain a Story of Race, Culture and Education

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Abstract

Students of African ancestry often share an experience of being a racialized minority in the context of the educational institution. Late Professor of Anthropology John Ogbu’s Cultural-ecological Theory of Academic Disengagement is employed to describe the negative responses encountered by peers in the name of academic achievement.

The late Nigerian-American anthropologist John Ogbu described that it is often socially disadvantageous for black youth to prosper academically in formal education. Black students are often seen as betraying their cultural identities by aspiring to academic success and scholastic achievement and are met with repugnance by black peers.

The notion of “acting white” is unnecessary, impertinent should be abandoned outright as achievement should have no color.

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Keywords

Diversity; Medical education; Minority health; African American

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