



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

OFFICE OF STUDENT LIFE

“Cultural Deprivation”

Latino/a College Student Experiences at a PWI

Center for the Study of Student Life

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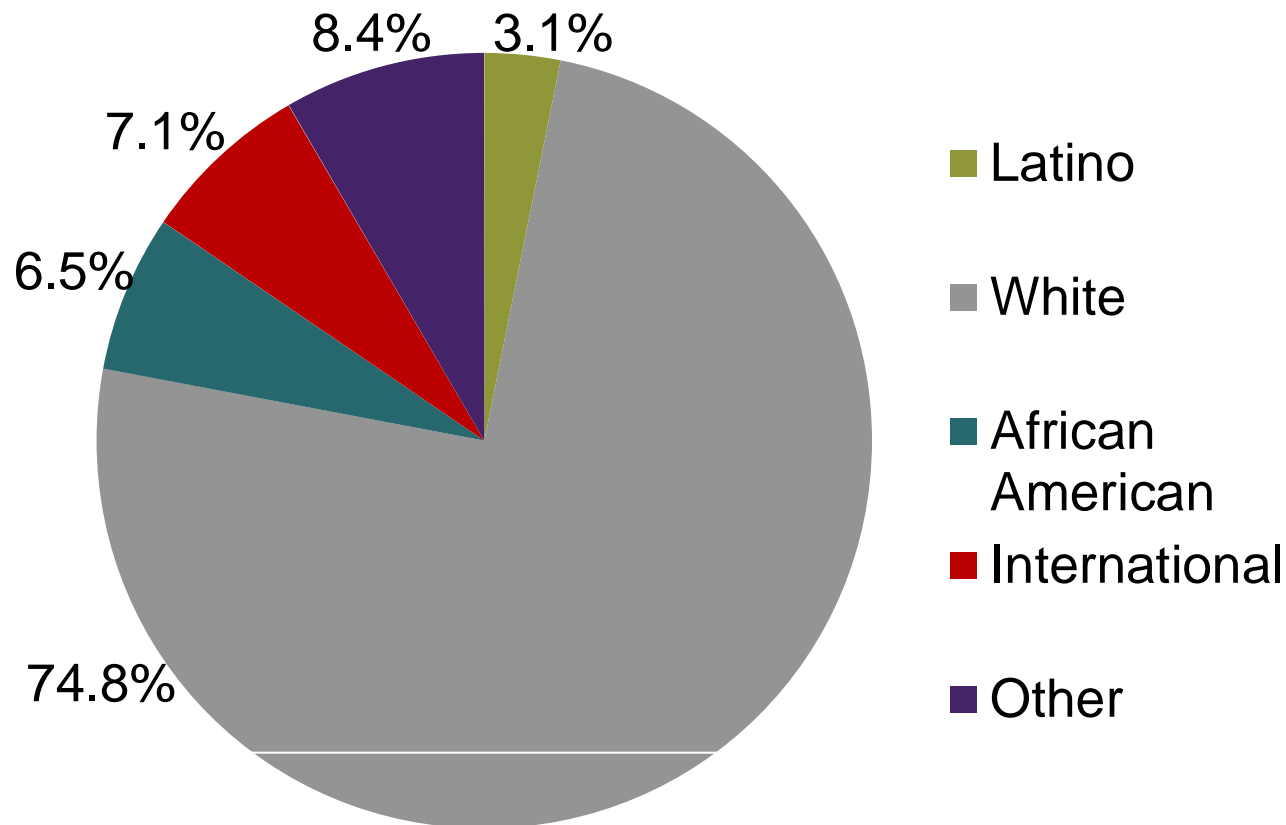
Outline

- Background and Literature
- Study Design
- Findings
- Implications
- Discussion
- Q&A



Background: Institution

- Research intensive
- Undergraduate Demographics (Spring 2012)





Background: Literature

- Latino students are underrepresented in higher education (National Center for Education Statistics, 2012)
- Latino students are “least educated major racial or ethnic group in terms of completion of a bachelor’s degree” (Fry, 2011, p. 5).



Background: Literature

- **Latino students face challenges in higher education** (Hernandez & Lopez, 2004-2005; Sy & Romero, 2008)
- **Student Perceptions of Campus Environment**
 - **Sense of belonging** (Johnson et al., 2007; Strayhorn, 2008)
 - **Perceptions of discrimination or racism** (e.g. Johnson et al., 2007; Taggart & Crisp, 2010)



Study Design & Methodology

- Researcher identity and study design
- Constructivist, grounded theory
- 11 semi-structured interviews



Introducing our Participants

Participant	Gender	First Generation Student?	Age
Josseline	Female	Yes	19
Edita	Female	No	19
Natalia	Female	No	20
Belle	Female	Yes	20
Delores	Female	No	20
Raul	Male	Yes	20
Soledad	Female	Yes	21
Ivan	Male	No	22
Amarissa	Female	Yes	22
Zanita	Female	No	22
Hector	Male	Yes	23



Guiding Questions

How does the context of a predominately White institution influence the college experience of Latino/a students?

How do Latino/a students' prior environments influence their experiences at a predominately White institution?



Overview of Findings

- Pre-college and transition experiences
 - College Expectations
 - Culture and Identity
 - Transition to campus
- Experiences on campus
 - Parental support
 - Classroom experiences
 - Involvement and leadership
 - Perceptions of the institution



Pre-college and Transition Experiences: College Expectations

“It was never really a questions of whether or not I was going to college, it was a matter of where.”

Delores

“They didn’t want me to go away to college just because it’s really far... they never experienced that.”

Zanita



Pre-college and Transition Experiences: Culture and Identity

“I like to identify as Latina... I lived in Mexico until I was seven, so I think it had a huge impact on me, like a lot of their cultural values... has shaped a lot of who I am...”

Zanita

“pan-racial”

Delores



Pre-college and Transition Experiences: Transition

“[I]t’s more of a culture deprivation... not having immediate access to... *my* food... *my* music... *my* language... that whole lack of culture that I was so used to was something that was really difficult for me to transition to.”

Gabriel

“I didn’t really have anyone that looked like me, or anybody that I felt was in the same situation.”

Raul



Experiences on Campus: Parental Support

“I think they kind of felt helpless when I first came to college because I would call them and be like ‘I’m stressed about this’ and they’re like ‘we don’t know how to help you.’ ... I just got to the point where I stop[ped] telling them the struggles I was going through because I knew that they would just worry more about me.”

Amarissa



Experiences on Campus: Classroom Experiences

“When you’re in class and something comes up about Latinos... and everyone looks at you and you’re like, I don’t really know what to tell you, our experiences are all different.”

Delores

“I gave a presentation on immigration... [A classmate] asked me “well what are you going to do about illegals when they come into the state of Ohio and have their anchor babies?”... not appropriate, at all.”

Belle



Experiences on Campus: Involvement and Leadership

“I was looking for something that reminded me of home.”

Amarissa

“There’s a point where you realize like, there’s so few of us that we all kind of have to take part of something.”

Josseline



Experiences on Campus: Perception of the Institution

“...We kind of get ignored sometimes. Like we don't really matter. ...[W]e have to constantly struggle ... to prove to you guys that we're here.”

Josseline

“it's a great place for any ethnicity... it's very accepting.”

Edita



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**Let's talk
about it.**



Discussion Questions

- 1) Do any of our findings relate to experiences you've had on your campus?
- 2) How does this apply given your institutional context?
- 3) Are there any suggestions for institutional improvement from the findings?



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Suggested Institutional Improvements

- Recruitment
- Transition programs (Bridge, Orientation)
- Social programming
- Learning Communities (Living Learning Communities)
- Parent/ Family programming
- Faculty interactions
- Intergroup dialoguing



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Questions?



Thanks!

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