

## Bureau of Educational Research

2008-2009 Seminar Series

Presents



# Rethinking Black Racial Identity: A Quest for Humanity

Thursday, March 5, 2009

12:00-1:00pm 242 Education

## Dr. Helen Neville

*Professor of  
Educational Psychology and  
African American Studies*

*Distinguished Senior Scholar  
College of Education*



As early as W. E. B. Du Bois' (1903) seminal work, *Souls of Black Folks*, scholars have proposed *racial identity theories to describe the process of understanding Black(ness) in racially hierarchical societies*, with an emphasis on the United States. The area of inquiry has grown exponentially in the field of psychology over the past two decades, with a number of competing and complimentary theories and hundreds of empirical studies.

Overwhelmingly, the empirical studies to date indicate that *greater internalization of an affirmative self definition of Black(ness) is related to a host of positive psychological and educational processes*. In this presentation, Dr. Neville will provide a brief review of the extant literature on Black racial identity, highlighting gaps in our knowledge.

She will also describe the current transnational research project she is conducting on the *experiences and interpretations of Black(ness) using a racial life narrative methodology*. Emerging themes from her interviews with people in Australia, Bermuda, and the United States will be highlighted with a focus on the Quest for Humanity theme.



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