

Bureau of Educational Research:
2010-2011 Seminar Series

RACE AND DIGITAL SPACE: A PROGRAM OF RESEARCH ON ONLINE RACIAL DISCRIMINATION & ADOLESCENT ADJUSTMENT



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2010-2011

DISTINGUISHED SCHOLAR

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WHEN:

Thursday, April 14th 12-1:00 p.m.

WHERE:

242 Education Building

In the mid-1990s, the Internet was lauded for its potential to usher in a color-blind society. This new medium, it was argued, could eliminate racial cues from communication and lead to more egalitarian interaction between groups. This presentation will outline a series of studies that explore whether this is the case with adolescent populations online. To the contrary, these studies show that many of the social ills related to race that exist offline are recreated in Internet spaces frequently used by teens, including Facebook. Twenty-nine percent of African Americans, for example, personally experience online racial discrimination and 71% witness disparaging remarks toward same and cross-race peers. These experiences are associated with depressive symptoms and increased anxiety for adolescent populations.

The presentation concludes with findings from a study of the factors that may protect youth from these mental health outcomes and a discussion of a NICHD-funded longitudinal study of online racial discrimination and its impact on academic, psychological and behavioral outcomes.