

Project Title:

Social Capital and Civic Engagement of Marginalized Youth on MySpace

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Department: College of Applied Arts, Social Work

Project Summary:

The Social Capital and Civic Engagement of Marginalized Youth on MySpace study sought to examine the relationships among social capital, civic engagement, and MySpace usage for socio-economically and racially marginalized youth, and to explore the ways in which marginalized youth may be creating new forms of social capital. The research methodology and objectives were informed by literature examining (a) the constructs of social capital and civic engagement, (b) social networking sites in relation to civic engagement and social capital. The REP grant allowed investigators to collect data and achieve the following research objectives: (1) to develop our understanding the relationships among social capital, civic engagement and MySpace usage for marginalized youth,

(2) to develop and validate a new measurement tool, (3) to examine the ways in which marginalized youth create new forms of social capital. We have submitted a manuscript on scale development and will be submitting a manuscript on the first objective by November 2010. We will continue data analysis to answer the third objective. Our study had 106 participants between the ages of 14 and 29.

Publications:

Submitted article: Russell, A., Deepak, A. & Heald, A. (submitted, 2010). Measuring Social Capital among Marginalized Youth Using MySpace: Scale Design and Development. Communication Research.

Presentations:

Deepak, A., Russell, A. & Heald, A. (2010). Social Capital of Marginalized Youth on MySpace: Social Work Practice in the Digital Era, October 8, 2010. National Association of Social Workers. Houston, Texas Annual Conference.

External Grants Applied:

We have not yet applied for further external grants.

External Grants Awarded:

N/A

Student Number: 1