



Individual Presentation Proposal

2022 APA Annual Convention

Proposal ID: ind222449

- 1. Preferred mode:** Poster Session
Call Type: Individual
Presentation Format Preference: Person
Preregistered Hypotheses: No
Topic Subject:
- 2. Title of presentation:** Shifting the Lens of the Greatest Psychologists: Exploring the Prevalence of Black Scholars
Most appropriate index term: 68 Teaching of Psychology
- 3. Division to submit this proposal:** 01 - Society for General Psychology
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- 6. Accommodation request:** None
- 7. Electronic archiving:** Yes #8

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Presentation Title

Shifting the Lens of the Greatest Psychologists: Exploring the Prevalence of Black Scholars

Abstract of presentation

Introduction

The American Psychological Association makes it mandatory for accredited doctoral programs to study the history of psychology (APA, 2006). Therefore, psychologists are expected to exhibit comprehensive knowledge of psychology's history. However, the erasure of psychologists of colors' contributions is pervasive and their contributions to the field is often excluded from the discourse on origins and development of major ideas in psychology. In this present research, we seek to challenge whose work and contributions are considered prominent and highlight the impact that Black scholars have made in psychology.

Methods

We critically examined a published list of eminent psychologists of the 20th century (Haggbloom et al., 2002) and identified the cultural identities and areas of research/clinical interest of the listed psychologists. Frequency analysis of the psychologists on this list revealed the following:

Of the identified eminent psychologists, 91% were male, 77% were White, and 70% were identified as U.S nationals. The most represented areas of interest among the eminent psychologists included cognitive development (e.g., theory of cognitive development, language acquisition, learning and memory, and decision making), social psychology (e.g., social communication, political attitudes, and group dynamics), and assessment/measurement (e.g., test development, human intelligence, and psychometrics), respectively.

The lack of representation of the contributions of Black psychologists, coupled with the significant increase in research that examines racial/ethnic/cultural variables that contribute to individuals' functioning and well-being necessitates a reexamination of who is regarded as eminent and influential in the field of psychology. Even as many psychology subfields emphasize the importance of diversity and cultural competence as primary tenets of training (Rogers, 2006; Scheel et al., 2018; Gregus et al., 2020), the field continuously chooses to revere the contributions of some, while ignoring those of others. Consequently, this present study seeks to examine who current Black psychologists regard as eminent psychologists, and who they regard as being most influential to their current work.

This study aims to transform the education of the history of psychology by highlighting the narratives of previously unrecognized contributions while expanding the scope of what it means to be considered "eminent". The authors will present study findings using frequency statistics to identify the most referenced Black scholars and highlight their contributions to the field. Further, we will cross-reference the scholars indicated in our data with those on Haggbloom et al.,'s (2002) list. Finally, we will discuss and articulate the overall implications of study results.

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