

University of Nebraska - Lincoln

DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln

Different Perspectives on Majority Rules (1996)

People of Color in Predominantly White
Institutions

April 1996

Examining The Experiences of Black Student Athletes at Predominantly White NCAA Division 1 Institutions Using an Internal Colonial Model

Billy Joe Hawkins

Northern Illinois University

Follow this and additional works at: <http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/pocpwi1st>



Part of the [Race, Ethnicity and Post-Colonial Studies Commons](#)

Hawkins, Billy Joe, "Examining The Experiences of Black Student Athletes at Predominantly White NCAA Division 1 Institutions Using an Internal Colonial Model" (1996). *Different Perspectives on Majority Rules (1996)*. 4.
<http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/pocpwi1st/4>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the People of Color in Predominantly White Institutions at DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln. It has been accepted for inclusion in Different Perspectives on Majority Rules (1996) by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln.

Examining The Experiences of Black Student Athletes at Predominantly White NCAA Division 1 Institutions Using an Internal Colonial Model

Dr. Billy Joe Hawkins

Northern Illinois University

Economic and political exploitation, cultural and social isolation, and experiences with racism were identified as shared experiences of internally colonized people and Black student athletes.

This study identified the similarities that exist between Black student athletes and internally colonized people. An internal colonial model, as well as components from the oscillating migrant laborer's experience, were used to give a secondary analysis on data collected in 1989 by the American Institute for Research (AIR). The data analyzed pertained to the psychological well-being of Black student athletes on predominantly White National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) institutions (less than 4% Black undergraduate enrollment). The internal colonial model was used to place the data into a broader theoretical framework, moving it beyond its descriptive approach. It was concluded that the main experiences internally colonized people and Black student athletes shared in common were their economic and political exploitation, cultural and social isolation, and their experiences with racism. Since there were similar experiences, the structures into which both groups of individuals entered must also share some similarities. Therefore, to increase the success of Black student athletes and alleviate their negative experiences at predominantly White Institutions, there must be structural adjustments made.

PRESENTER

Billy Joe Hawkins is currently a tenure-track assistant professor at Northern Illinois University. His Ph.D. is in sociology of sport and cultural studies from the University of Iowa. This session incorporates research from his doctoral thesis. Hawkins' additional research interests include religion and sport and the socio-historical experiences of Blacks in sport.