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An Interactive Model for Exploring the Concerns of People of Color in Predominantly White Institutions

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"We present in this study, the stories of 22 graduate students of color (nine African Americans, eight Hispanic Americans, three Asian Americans, and two foreign students."

There is neither a "typical" person of color nor a typical predominantly white institution. Even if there were, we would still need an interactive model to understand the experience of this fictional person and institution, because experience is the product of relationship or interaction.

Since two persons of color in the same predominantly white institution—a Malcom and a Martin - for example, may provoke widely different reactions, in exploring our concerns as people of color in a predominantly white university setting, we decided that a narrative, rather than a more structure approach, would best serve our purpose.

Narration is a powerful tool of discernment. As one tells one's story, one begins to understand it better. Narration is also cathartic, hence it is the bedrock of psychotherapy. We present in this study, the stories of 22 graduate students of color (nine African Americans, eight Hispanic Americans, three Asian Americans and two foreign students.) We also report on the reactions of "the majority" and the attitudes of university authorities when these stories were presented for discussion.

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