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

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# **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.