Brave Community: Teaching and Learning about Race in College Classrooms

While organizations across the nation have taken steps to build a more inclusive society, sociological evidence consistently demonstrates the persistent impact of racism. This colloquium will argue that classrooms are optimal spaces to engage American undergraduates with the challenges and opportunities of the nation’s racial diversity. De Novais will review her study of undergraduate understanding of race and the process of linking classroom dynamics to learning about race. The study investigated the experience of undergraduate students at a private, selective university and asked whether classroom experiences in courses on race influenced students’ understanding of race. De Novais found that students’ understanding of race grew more complex, and students demonstrated an increased capacity to engage with one another in intellectually courageous and empathetic ways.

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