

**CIARA P. SMALLS**

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**EDUCATIONAL HISTORY:**

Ph.D. (Psychology)	
University of Michigan, Ann Arbor	2007
Dissertation:	<i>Self-regulation in the classroom and beyond: The roles of parenting practices, racial socialization, and racial identity in African American youth.</i>
M.S. (Psychology)	2005
University of Michigan, Ann Arbor	
B. S. (Psychology, Magna Cum Laude)	2002
Morgan State University	

**RESEARCH INTERESTS:**

- Family promotion of achievement and positive psychological functioning
- Racial socialization
- Parenting practices
- Racial identity

**PAPERS AND PUBLICATIONS:**

- Bowen- Reid, T.L. & **Smalls, C.** (2004). Multidimensional assessment of spirituality, stress levels and health promoting behaviors amongst African-American college students. *Journal of Black Western Studies*, 28, 283-291.
- Chavous, T., Rivas, D., **Smalls, C.**, Griffin, T., & Cogburn, C. (accepted for publication). Gender matters: The influence of school racial discrimination experiences and racial identity on African American adolescents' academic engagement. *Developmental Psychology*.
- Scottham, K.M. & **Smalls, C.** (under review). Racial centrality and regard as antecedents of African American parent race socialization emphases: A profile approach.
- Smalls, C.**, White, R., Chavous, T., & Sellers, R. (2007). Racial ideological beliefs and racial discrimination experiences as predictors of academic engagement among African American adolescents. *Journal of Black Psychology*, 33, 299-330.

**MANUSCRIPTS IN PREPARATION**

Neblett, E., **Smalls, C.**, Ford, K., & Sellers, R. Patterns of racial socialization and African American adolescent racial identity.

**Smalls, C.**, Rowley, S., & Sellers. What impacts parent racial trust and involvement in school? The roles of school characteristics and profiles of parent racial identity and discrimination experiences.

**Smalls, C.** Youth engagement in the classroom and beyond: The joint roles of parenting practices and racial socialization in African American families.

**RESEARCH EXPERIENCE:**

*Graduate Research Assistant* 2002 - 2007  
Department of Psychology, University of Michigan

- ***African American Family Project:*** Participated in subject recruitment, data collection, data cleaning and analysis, and manuscript preparation.
- ***African American Diary Study:*** Created the human subjects review application for a lab project on race socialization and daily mood with parent-teen dyads.
- ***African American Parent Focus Groups:*** Conducted focus groups with African American parents on their socialization on education, race, and personal development.
- ***African American Teen Focus Group:*** Facilitated focus group with youth on their aspirations and parents messages around education, race, and character.
- ***Discrimination Experiences Data:*** Trained undergraduate research assistants to code qualitative data on discriminatory experiences.

Principal Investigator: Dr. Robert Sellers

*Graduate Research Assistant* 2005  
Gender and Achievement Lab, Department of Education, University of Michigan.  
Participated in reviews of the literature, data analysis, and manuscript preparation for a longitudinal study of adolescents (The Maryland Adolescent Development in Context Study)  
Mentor: Dr. Tabbye Chavous

*Research Assistant* 1999- 2002  
National Institute of Mental Health- Career Opportunities  
in Research Program (NIMH-COR), Morgan State University  
Conducted an independent research project on stress, spirituality,  
and health promoting behaviors among African- American college students.  
Principal Investigator: Dr. Terra Bowen- Reid

**CONSULTANT/ APPLIED EXPERIENCE:**

***Focus Group Technology Evaluation*** 2007  
School of Education, University of Michigan & Ann Arbor Public Schools

Conducted and analyzed focus groups with middle school youth for a school wide evaluation of the technology program.

***Bridging Identities/Cultures Writing Project Mentor*** 2007

Detroit Youth Dialogues & What Kids Can Do

Mentored graduates of the Detroit Youth Dialogues using writing workshops and individual coaching. Youth essays focused on their ethnic/racial identities (e.g., racial tolerance, racial stereotypes) and will culminate in a published work.

***Graduate Training Assistant*** 2005, Summer

Center for Intergroup Relations, University of Michigan.

Assisted with curriculum development and facilitator training for a multicultural intervention for youth in Metropolitan Detroit.

***Consultant for Ethnic Minority Parent Involvement*** 2003-2004

Ann Arbor School District, Ann Arbor, MI

Collaborated with the coordinator of programs for Ann Arbor Public Schools to create and disseminate resources on for school on parent involvement as part of broader school reform efforts.

**TEACHING EXPERIENCE:**

- **Graduate Student Instructor Mentor**

- Introduction to Psychology***

- Organized teaching aids for other graduate student instructors and provided useful troubleshooting tips on topics such as lesson plans, exam review, time management, and student engagement during weekly GSI meetings and consultations.

- **Graduate Student Instructor**

- Introduction to Psychology***

- Taught two undergraduate sections with 30 students each. Planned and conducted sections. Wrote exam questions, ran exam review sessions, and graded written assignments and evaluated presentations. Held weekly office hours to prepare students for their exams and presentations.

- **Graduate Student Instructor**

- Introduction to Personality***

- Led two undergraduate sections with 30 students each. Wrote quiz questions, ran exam review sessions, evaluated student presentations. Also graded written exams and assignments. Held weekly office hours.

- **Graduate Student Instructor**

- Inter-group Dialogue Practicum***

- Supervised and trained undergraduate facilitators to lead discussions on topics pertaining to social justice, privilege and oppression. Held weekly office hours. Assisted and evaluated student lesson plans and facilitation. Co-instructed weekly

class on facilitation skills, discovering hot buttons, and leadership.

- **Graduate Student Instructor**

- *Training for Inter-group Dialogue*

- Co-instructed weekly seminar with students of diverse backgrounds about systems of privilege and oppression. Coached students individually on discovering their identities. Also helped troubleshoot student concerns such as difficulties with facilitating particular topics, working with a co-facilitator, etc.

### GUEST LECTURES:

- “Principles of Everyday Learning,” Introduction to Psychology (2005, October)
- Guest Panelist, Mental Health & Community Outreach (2005, September)
- “Social-Cognitive Theory,” Introduction to Personality (2003, November)

### SELECTED PRESENTATIONS:

**Smalls, C.** (2007, September). African American youth development in context: The roles of identity and sociocultural parenting. Presented at the Seminar for Behavioral Research on Minority Populations, Chapel Hill, NC.

**Smalls, C. & Scottham, K.M.** (2007, April). Racial identity as antecedents of parent-reported racial socialization: A profile approach. Presented at the Society for Research on Child Development, Boston, MA.

**Smalls, C.** (2006, November). Parent’s just don’t understand-or do they? Parenting, racial messages, and racial identity in the Black family. Presented at the Personality in Social Context Brown Bag, Department of Psychology, Ann Arbor, MI.

**Smalls, C., Peterson, C., & Sellers, R.M.** (2006, October). Cultural strengths and youth character. Presented at the Gallup International Positive Psychology Summit, Washington, DC.

**Smalls, C., White, R.L., Chavous, T.M., & Sellers, R.M.** (2006, June). How variation in racial attitudes and experiences affects academic engagement for Black adolescents. Presented at the Society for Psychological Study of Social Issues, Long Beach, CA.

**Smalls, C. & Sellers, R.M.** (2005, October). The roles of gender and perceived parent involvement on youths’ academic effort and performance. Presented at the 4<sup>th</sup> annual Society for Study of Human Development, Asilomar, CA.

**Smalls, C. & Sellers, R.M.** (2005, June). The impact of previous experiences on parent school trust. Presented at the biannual meeting of the Society for Community Research in Action, Urbana-Champaign, IL.

**Smalls, C. & Sellers, R.M.** (2004, July). The role of Black parent involvement on child

academic outcomes. Presented at the annual meeting of the American Psychological Association, Honolulu, HI.

**Smalls, C. & Sellers, R.M.** (2004, March). Past parent experiences and parent involvement on child academic attitudes and behaviors. Presented at the biannual meeting of the Society for Research on Adolescence, Baltimore, MD.

#### **HONORS and AWARDS:**

Michigan Teaching Fellow	2007
Gallup International Positive Psychology Summit Travel Award	2006
APA-NIMH Minority Fellowship Dissertation Support Award	2006
Rackham Dissertation/Thesis Award	2006
APA Minority Fellowship Program	2005
Pat Gurin Distinguished Lecture Series Award	2005
Barbara Perry Roberson Fellowship	2005
ICPSR Minority Summer Training Award	2005
Full Graduate Fellowship, Rackham School of Graduate Studies, University of Michigan	2002-07
Ford Foundation Predoctoral Fellowship- Honorable Mention	2002

#### **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:**

- *Preparing Future Faculty Seminar on College Teaching*, University of Michigan, MI (May 2007)
- *Racial Identity Forum*, Kent State University, OH (April 23-25, 2006)
- *Psychology Summer Institute*, APA- Minority Fellowship Program, Washington, DC (July 23-27)
- *Society for Research on Adolescence*, San Francisco, CA (March, 23-26, 2006)
- *Summer Institute-Combining Qualitative and Quantitative Research Methods*, University of Michigan, MI (July, 2005)
- *Summer Institute-Introduction to Focus Group Methods*, University of Michigan, MI (July, 2005)
- *Preparing Future Faculty Seminar*, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI (October 13, 2004)
- *Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR), Advanced Regression*, University of Michigan, MI (July, 2004)
- *Annual Winter Conference: School/Community Partnerships and "No Child Left Behind," Eastern Michigan, Ypsilanti MI (February 5, 2004)*

#### **SERVICE:**

- *Study Skills Workshop Coordinator*- Organized and funded an after-school workshop on study habits for dissertation participants. (Fall, 2006)
- *Personality Area Brown Bag Committee* (2006-2007)

- ***Careers in Psychology Panelist for the King-Chavez-Parks Summer Program*** (Summer, 2006)
- ***Careers in Psychology Panelist for the Undergraduate Research in Opportunities Program*** (Winter, 2006)
- ***Speaker Coordinator for the Annual SCOR conference (Students of Color of Rackham)*** (2006, Fall)
- ***Personality Psychology Admissions Committee (doctoral level)*** (2005, Fall)
- ***Black Student Psychological Association-Financial Chair*** (2003-2004)
- ***Black Student Psychological Association-Recruitment Co-Chair*** (2002-2003)

#### **MEMBERSHIPS and AFFILIATIONS:**

American Psychological Association

FINE Network –sponsored by the Harvard Family Research Project

Society for Community Research in Action

Society for Research on Adolescence

Society for Research on Child Development