

Ciara P. Smalls
Research Statement

My research investigates the impact of parenting practices and youth identity on the academic engagement, socioemotional, and sociocultural development of youth of color. This work has primarily concentrated on African American youth in middle and high school. My current work explores the joint nature of general parenting practices (e.g., democratic parenting, disciplinarian parenting) and culturally specific practices (e.g., racial socialization) in the context of African American families. My research further explores other dimensions associated with parent and youth racial group membership that have implications for the academic engagement and social adjustment of youth of color such as parent and youth discrimination experiences and racial identity attitudes.