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Identity Development Evaluation of African American Studies (IDEAAS): A Longitudinal Investigation

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Data Management Plan

Data Type

Two types of data will be collected from human subjects: self-report survey and reaction time-based responses. Scores on the self-report surveys will be based on Likert-type scales typically ranging from 1 to no more than 7. Because the self-report survey will also be administered using an internet survey tool (qualtrics.com), all response options will be coded prior to launching the survey. Such pre-coding of the data will allow the team to quickly and efficiently download and secure electronic files both short- and long-term storage.

Data Format

Survey data files will be downloaded at the end of every academic term in SPSS format, which is a commonly used data format in the behavioral sciences. The team plans to conduct preliminary analyses in SPSS but test the substantive hypotheses in Mplus, which analyzes data in .dat format. However, some researchers use software packages such as STATA and SAS. For this reason, all data will be converted to XML format prior to uploading to a repository. XML was chosen because it is a flexible format that allows data to be easily converted to other formats, including SPSS, .dat, and ASCII. XML also allows for the use of variable labels which should render the data fairly straightforward for interested researchers to interpret. All response time data will be downloaded in .txt format. These files will also be converted to XML format prior to storage.

Data Storage

Upon downloading data files they first be stored on the password-protected computers of the PI and co-PI. All data will be kept confidential. The variables in the final data set for each academic term will then be named and coded. All data files will be given the same name and dated, thus ensuring consistency in the files while affording researchers the ability to differentiate them. Next, the data files will be uploaded to the Purdue University Research Repository (PURR).

     PURR. Support for data management for this project throughout its lifecycle will occur using the Purdue University Research Repository (PURR), Purdue's institutional data repository. PURR utilizes HUBzero®, a web-mediated software platform designed for scientific collaboration and sharing of scientific data that was developed with support from the National Science Foundation and Purdue University. PURR provides workflows and tools for ingestion, identification, and dissemination of data as well as services to ensure data security, fidelity, backup, and mirroring. Purdue Libraries will consult with investigators to facilitate selection and ingestion of data with the application of appropriate descriptive metadata and data standards as well as to provide appraisal of data for long-term preservation and stewardship. PURR is working towards the ISO 16363 process to become a certified Trusted Digital Repository. PURR comes with a set of default policies and functionality that addresses privacy and confidentiality, intellectual property and copyright, and access and sharing of data. Datasets published using PURR will be assigned Digital Objects Identifiers (DOIs) and will be exposed to the web using open standards to maximize discoverability and scholarly reuse of data. An allocation of resources from PURR has been reserved for this project and will be appropriated upon its award.