

1. Can you briefly describe your research project?

This study examines the college experiences of Latinx students from mixed-educated households, where one parent holds a college education while the other does not, and their navigation of academia. We found that the educational experiences of Latinx students from mixed-educated households align closely with those of first-generation students in several aspects. Despite encountering similar challenges as their first-generation peers, institutional resources tend to be diverted away from these students. Also, some participants face difficulties contextualizing their experiences due to the absence of the "first-generation" label.

2. What got you interested in the topic of your research?

We had both previously taken classes with Professor Rangel regarding inequality within higher education and over the previous summer, I had been emailing the professor about articles I found on the aestheticization of poverty (such as the rising popularity of thrifting on college campuses) and how this affects the perception of socioeconomic status. Eventually, this developed into conversations about differing college experiences amongst first-generation college students and what it means to *be* "first generation."

3. What is your final product? Why did you decide on that method of presentation?

Our final product is an academic paper for our study, which allows professors and education scholars to engage with our work. We applied through IRB for our study and most IRB studies result in an academic paper, so we thought this format would be fitting. In addition, we will be presenting our research study and findings at the American Education Research Association Conference in April, so part of our research will culminate in a presentation.

4. How has the lens of concentrated wealth shaped your project?

College campuses are a microcosm of greater societal wealth inequalities; in one singular location, there are extremely wealthy students with generations of knowledge on how to navigate the academics and social life of college, *and* first-generation students who may have no idea what to expect. From roommates to classmates, these disparities can shape social circles, interactions with professors, and many more aspects of everyday life after graduation.

5. What do you hope others will take away from your work?

Mixed-educated students' interpretations and understanding of the 'first generation' label influence their interactions with peers and resource-seeking behavior. Our major finding was that the experiences of mixed-educated Latinx students closely mirror those of first-

generation students. Overall, it is important to acknowledge that one's upbringing and background impact college experiences!

6. What is the most surprising finding so far in your research process?

Many participants spoke about family preservation and this pressure to relieve their parents of any financial burdens; without being asked, at a young age, they would withdraw themselves from sports or other extracurricular activities.

There were also stark differences in the perception of what their peers may have experienced before coming to college; one participant stated that she wasn't even aware of the existence of boarding schools within the United States and thought it was a fictional system like "Hogwarts" in "Harry Potter."

7. How has your project and the fellowship changed your perspective on the research process?

I have come to learn that research is an evolving process. As we conducted more and more interviews, we saw emergent themes and changed our semi-structured interview protocol accordingly. And as we code interviews in NVIVO, themes emerge that we had not previously analyzed.

Also, in the research process, standardization is key to success, whether it be in de-identifying transcript and demographic information, through confidentiality procedures, or in coding through NVIVO. This ensures that we are on the same page and that our findings are objective and based solely on the data.

8. How has engaging with the Stone Inequality Initiative shaped your future plans?

In whatever area we choose to pursue, we will carry a sociological perspective with us into our careers. We know of the mechanisms behind structural inequality, which motivates us to make change.