

School of Education
Visiting Minority Scholars Lecture Series

A Search for Oppositional Culture

Angel Harris

Assistant Professor of Sociology
Princeton University

Friday, October 3 - 12:00-1:30 p.m.
Room 259 Educational Sciences Building
1025 W. Johnson Street

Angel Harris received his Ph.D. in public policy and sociology from the University of Michigan in 2005. He served as assistant professor at the University of Texas-Austin in 2006-07, and in 2007 he took his current position as assistant professor of sociology at Princeton University. His research focuses on the social psychological determinants of the racial achievement gap, with particular attention to conditions that contribute to African Americans' lower academic achievement and Asian Americans' higher academic achievement relative to Whites. He has published a series of empirical studies on "oppositional culture," the notion that oppressed minority groups turn away from schooling in part because they view schooling as emblematic of the dominant culture, which they reject in an effort to maintain their own cultural integrity. In general, his research casts doubt on the hypothesis that oppositional culture is a mechanism of racial inequality in educational achievement. Professor Harris's talk at WCER, which will take place in the context of the Interdisciplinary Training Seminar in Education Sciences, will draw on his research on oppositional culture.

Sponsored by the School of Education and the Wisconsin Center for Education Research