**Don’t Believe the Hype; Don’t Live the Hype:**

**Black Males’ Experiences on their Doctoral Journey**

1. The participants to be included in the study are a group of 5-10 Black males at different stages in their doctoral program at Texas State University. They will be currently enrolled or recent graduates from one of the doctoral programs offered at the university. Participants are reasonably expected to be over the age of 18 since I will look only at doctoral students. The purpose of this study is to collect data on the stories and life histories of Black males at various stages in pursuing doctoral studies at Texas State University and determine how they make sense of these life experiences and how they negotiate the process of schooling. Therefore, this group is important to study.

2. Participants will be recruited by flyers and email messages posted/sent to the various colleges, soliciting participation. Both the flyer and the email message will describe the research and give students information on how to contact the researcher. Flyer and email messages will provide the same information (Please see attached flyer and email message). Those showing interest in participating will be given additional information on the study and informed that participation is voluntary via the consent form that will be provided for the participant’s review and completion. (Please see Consent Form attached).

3. Data will be collected by asking participants to:

1. Answer a questionnaire of 10 to 15 questions, which could take approximately 15 minutes to complete. This questionnaire will ask demographics questions such as age, race/ethnicity, and schooling experiences. I will also ask about the participants’ graduate program and post graduation goals.
2. Participate in at least two oral history interviews with possible follow up questions via telephone or email conversations. The interviews can last one or two hours depending on how much the participants get involved in telling their life stories. (Please see sample interview questions).
3. Share documents and artifacts: These are written, visual, and digital material relevant to participants telling their life histories. Some examples are letters, newspaper accounts, songs, and poems. Artifacts are physical objects, which include implements, trophies, pictures, instruments, or any object of everyday living that can also be helpful in recounting the participant’s life experiences. These are objects the participants treasure because they trigger memories of important times, people and events. With the participants’ permission, I will make copies or take a photograph of these documents and artifacts.

4. There are no risks for the participants physically or mentally in participating in this study. However, there is the possibility of experiencing some discomfort or uneasiness while recalling memories related to racial issues or racism when sharing anecdotes or stories during the interview process. In this case we can stop the interview, or the participant can change the subject. Also, the participant can seek counseling services available to students on campus by contacting the Texas State Counseling Center at (512) 245-2208 or email [counselingcenter@txstate.edu](mailto:counselingcenter@txstate.edu). Services for participants are free to registered students, though the number of sessions allowed may be limited. In addition, the following are providers available on a sliding fee schedule should the need arise. Participants will be responsible for any fees.

Austin: [http://www.integralcare.org/](http://www.integralcare.org/" \t "_blank) Phone: (512) 472-4357

Hays County: [http://www.hillcountry.org/services/mental\_health/default.asp](http://www.hillcountry.org/services/mental_health/default.asp" \t "_blank) Phone: (877) 466-0660

San Antonio: [http://www.chcsbc.org/](http://www.chcsbc.org/" \t "_blank) Phone: (210) 731-1300

Participants will be reminded again that there are no known risks associated with participation in this study.

However, if they have any questions regarding this study or any risk they think they might encounter, they can ask during the review of the consent form or when they feel comfortable. Participants will be notified that can call my supervisor or me at the aforementioned telephone numbers.

5. **I will audiotape record the interviews and conversations and I will also be taking notes**. Please know that participants will be advised that at any time they can request to have the recorder turned off. Participants will also be advised they have the right NOT to answer any particular questions. In participating in the study, participants will also be advised they are giving me permission to use the information provided in the interviews for research and academic presentations and publication purposes ONLY. Participants’ privacy and identity will be protected to the maximum extent allowable by law. Participants’ real name will not appear together with any information you share. Participants’ identity will not be publicly revealed in any way. Participants will be advised that participation in this project is voluntary and that they may choose at any time not to participate. This withdrawal would not incur penalty or loss of benefits to the participants, their program, and their relationship with the University will not be affected in any way.

6. Benefits for the participants: By participating in this study participants will have an opportunity to share their stories in a safe environment. Sharing their stories will benefit other Black males by showing an alternative and providing a path they can follow towards obtaining higher education goals. This experience can also be empowering for the participants when realizing how much they have accomplished. Benefits for the education field: This study can inform practice and theory related to educational institutions by reframing their view of race and diversity. Study results could inform on strategies for marketing, recruiting and retaining of Black males in higher education. Results can also inform leaders of formal social structures and educational systems in order to promote change. It will also address a gap in the literature and contribute to fields such as multicultural studies, Black and African American studies, and critical race theory.

7. No compensation will be given for participating.

8. The benefits for the participants in terms of empowerment, providing alternatives for other Black and African American males, and the benefits for formal social structures in terms of informing and reframing views on race and diversity greatly outweigh the minimal risk in this research that participants may experience some discomfort when recounting their life experiences especially regarding racial issues and racism.

9. Interviews will only be conducted with Texas State students and former students. Interviews will be conducted in a safe environment selected by the participant. Locations may include University campus, home or work office of the participant.

10. I am both a staff member and a doctoral student in the College of Education at Texas State University. However, I will be conducting this research as part of completing my doctoral degree in Adult Professional Community Education and will identify myself as a student and researcher. For this purpose I have established a private email account for the study, doctstudy2010@hotmail.com. My supervisor is Dr. Clarena Larrotta, Assistant Professor at the College of Education, phone: (512) 245-6288. email CL24@txstate.edu

11. I successfully defended my dissertation proposal on 11/30/10. (Please see approved Dissertation Proposal document attached).

12. This proposed study has not been reviewed/approved by another IRB.

13. I will be the only one with access to the data gathered for this study. There is a possibility for my Dissertation Chair (Dr. Clarena Larrotta) to also have access to this information during the data analysis process. Data collected will be analyzed and presented as part of my dissertation.