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The Impact of the United States Presidential Administration on African American College Students

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The University of Southern Mississippi

Honors College Thesis: The Impact of the United States Presidential Administration on
African American College Students

by

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A Thesis
Submitted to the Honors College of
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Abstract

It has been shown that college students of color do not share the same experiences as their Caucasian counterparts, with students of color experiencing higher levels of harassment and lower levels of perceived campus safety (Rankin & Reason, 2005). The purpose of this study was to explore the impact of the 2016 U.S. Presidential Election and the subsequent Trump administration on college students of color, specifically African American college students, and the psychological distress that may have been caused by the consequences of a shift in the national political climate. Participants were college students ages 18 to 54 who completed a series of online questionnaires asking them about their opinions on and feelings toward the President of the United States, national political affairs, time spent on media platforms, and their own psychological symptoms. Time spent on media platforms was associated with higher levels of psychological symptoms for African American participants. Across both racial groups, participants who were not registered to vote reported engaging in less political discourse with their friends than registered voters. Lower levels of approval of the President of the United States ability to handle his job and overall impression of the President were associated with higher levels of psychological symptoms for both racial groups. However, a significant positive relationship between sleep problems and interest in politics and dissociation and attention given to current national politics was exhibited only for African American participants.

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Introduction

Exposure to racial discrimination has been labeled as a risk factor for psychological symptoms in African Americans (Prelow, Mosher, & Bowman, 2006). African Americans may also experience stress stemming from difficulties related to their racial and ethnic background, otherwise known as minority status stress (Hood et al., 2013). Minority status stress as defined by Hood et. al (2013) involves stressors that stem from systematic issues unique to marginalized populations. For example, racial discrimination, status as a first-generation college student, and racial underrepresentation in school or workplace settings are included in the unique stressors that impact minority populations. The experiences of individuals from minority groups in the United States vary depending on the contexts in which they live their lives. In the college student population, African Americans may experience symptoms of stress that are exacerbated by their experiences with racial underrepresentation in college, as they make up just 11% of total degrees conferred by postsecondary institutions from 2015-2016 (NCES, 2017). Within the context of college campuses, students of color report experiencing higher levels of harassment and view classroom climates as less welcoming than do their Caucasian counterparts (Rankin, Reason, Rankin, & Reason, 2005). According to the growing body of research on minority mental health, there may be an association between the unique stressors that African Americans experience and psychological difficulties.

Although there is research exploring the relationship between factors such as connection to one's racial identity and psychological distress (Hood et al., 2013; Prelow, Mosher, & Bowman, 2006), these studies fail to explore the relationship within the

context of the larger environment, such as social interactions and media exposure while living in a tumultuous national political climate. Urie Bronfenbrenner's Ecological Systems Theory suggests considering environmental factors, such as culture and economy, and their influence on human development (Gauvain & Cole, 2005). Bronfenbrenner proposes that human development occurs through a series of interactions and relationships between the immediate environment (social roles and interpersonal relations), relationships between multiple settings that a developing human interacts with (home, school, and the workplace), and the interaction of multiple systems that influence the environment on a macro-level (culture, customs, resources). Bronfenbrenner's theory provides a foundation for considering not only immediate influences of the environment on mental well-being but expanding said consideration to include influences on a grander scale, such as the state of the country and its policies and political affairs.

Media

Technological advances have altered the environment in which child and adolescent development occur (Comer, Furr, Beidas, Babyar, & Kendall, 2008). In particular, the rise of the 24-hour news cycle and news being constantly available via websites and smartphone notifications has changed in recent decades. It has been suggested that media consumption in adults can have detrimental effects on perceptions of threat and vulnerability (Comer et al., 2008). With his cultivation theory, George Gerbner explains that excessive television use appears to portray the world in a distorted way, exaggerating events and leading to a perception of the world as more threatening than it is (Gerbner & Gross, 1976). In fact, the tendency of media outlets to continuously cover stories of strife and threatening issues towards the United States elicits emotional

reactions from the public and molds policy preferences (Gadarian, 2010), suggesting that emotional coverage from news media has more impact on the public than information alone. Comer et al. (2008) explored the relationship between media consumption, measured as television and internet use, and threat perception, defined as the participant's belief in the likelihood of future threats, in children and found that the more media consumed by participants, the greater the reports of personal threat perception (i.e., neighborhood crimes). Results indicated an interactive model of television use, anxiety levels, and threat perception. Television use depended on anxiety levels to predict the participants' threat perception; in other words, and higher levels of anxiety led to more personal threat perception when participants reported higher amounts of television use. Consequently, media use appears to exacerbate feelings of a 'mean and scary world' when examined within the context of psychological symptoms (Comer et al., 2008). According to Gadarian (2010), the way in which information is presented coupled with a constant consumption of mass media by the public can influence perceptions of threat and political attitudes. Though Comer et al. (2008) focused on the detrimental impact of television use on children, the prevalence of mass media at present merits a further examination of the effect of media use on differing age groups, such as college students. Additionally, it is important to consider the influence of media use on political opinions, political activity, and well-being and to examine whether this is different among different racial groups.

Political Engagement

In the current national political climate, the constant barrage of information, or misinformation, from media sources may play a key role in developing political attitudes

and interest in political engagement. Zhang et al. (2010) found that the use of social networking sites, such as Facebook or Myspace, was positively related to civic participation, defined as a participant's involvement in local government and community issues. Interpersonal political discussion, defined by Zhang et al. (2010) as how often a participant discusses political issues with family and friends, was also significantly related to civic and political participation, but not to confidence in government, suggesting that interpersonal political discourse elicits an increase in political participation, but not an increase in positive views of the government. Zhang et. al's sample consisted primarily of middle-aged women, meaning that further examination across various age groups is needed. Further, the current prevalence and widespread use of social media provides justification in applying Zhang et. al's findings and exploring the link between media use and the development of political attitudes and engagement in college students- a generation whose coming-of-age occurred alongside the rise of technology and social media use.

Most political participation occurs in a group context; therefore, it is important to consider social context when exploring why individuals participate in politics (Huckfeldt, 1979). Research suggests that socioeconomic status (SES) predicts political participation, with individuals of higher SES more likely to participate in political behavior than their lower SES counterparts (Milbrath & Goel, 1977). Milbrath & Goel's findings (1977) may suggest that access to resources such as wealth and education may facilitate more opportunity to be politically active. However, Huckfeldt (1979) emphasizes the importance of considering social context, as well as SES, when examining political engagement. Social context may mediate the relationship between extensive political

participation and higher SES, operating outside of individual variability. It appears that, overall, higher SES individuals are more likely to be active in political participation, but neighborhood context elicits different levels of engagement that are dependent upon individual social status (Huckfeldt, 1979). For example, lower SES individuals appear to participate less politically when in high status environments, suggesting that the exclusivity of high-status environments and the presence of higher SES individuals is discouraging for those of lower SES.

A marginalized individual's awareness of inequities that disproportionately affect their community may also influence political participation. Diemer & Li (2011) found that racial identity was a positive predictor of voting behavior, suggesting that identifying more strongly with a minority racial group facilitates a willingness to participate in political engagement. Consequently, awareness of one's racial minority status also appears to be a negative predictor of sociopolitical control, defined as the perceived efficacy to effect social and political change, with low feelings of sociopolitical control predicting low voting behavior (Diemer & Li, 2011). The authors suggest that parental and peer sociopolitical support, defined as discussing politics or news events with family and friends, facilitates stronger feelings of sociopolitical control, self-efficacy, and political engagement. This indicates that community and social discussion of political and social issues may impact political participation among marginalized populations.

The Current Study

The purpose of this study is to explore the overall impact of the current U.S. presidential administration on college students, with a particular emphasis on the experience of African Americans. There is currently minimal research available relating

the influence of a presidential administration on policies and national political climate to the well-being of college students. This study aims to examine the differences in experiences during the current administration for Caucasian and African American students, specifically, as marginalized populations have shown to engage differently in and be impacted disproportionately by politics and political climates. The endorsement of President Donald Trump by white supremacists may be a specific source of minority status stress related to the current administration because of the presence of the systematic relationship between white supremacy and violence. Consequently, there is merit in exploring the possible detrimental impact on the well-being of college students caused by the consequences of the actions and influence of the current presidential administration. This study also seeks to provide an empirical basis and framework for the numerous news and media headlines that have highlighted, via anecdotes and polls, an overwhelming disapproval of the current president that is coupled with feelings of fear and frustration within the African American community.

I hypothesize that frequency of conversations with friends and family will be positively correlated with political engagement (i.e. voting). Time spent on any media platforms (i.e., social media or watching the news) is expected to be positively correlated with political engagement and anxiety symptoms, and I hypothesize that results will reveal significant positive correlations between socioeconomic status and voting as well as racial identity and voting. Interest in politics and the amount of attention given to current national politics are expected to be significantly positively correlated with symptoms of psychological problems, especially among African American students. Opinions about the ability of the President of the United States to perform his job well

and overall impression of the President will also be examined as potential correlates with other independent and dependent variables, though these correlations are more exploratory in nature.

Methods

Participants and Procedure

Detailed information about the sample is displayed in Table 1. Participants consisted of 60 undergraduate college students age 18 to 40 ($M = 21$, $SD = 5.8$) attending The University of Southern Mississippi. They were recruited through the School of Psychology student subject pool (SONA), and any psychology undergraduate student over the age of eighteen was eligible to participate. All participants identified as Caucasian (71.7%) or African American (28.3%). The majority of the sample (86.7%) was female and most indicated their political party affiliation was either Republican (35%) or Democrat (41%).

Measures

Demographics Questionnaire. Participants answered a series of questions that indicated demographic information. Participant demographics related to age, gender identity, year in college, history of voting, family income, and parents' highest level of education.

Cross Ethnic-Racial Identity Scale-Adult (CERIS-A) The CERIS-A (Worrell, Mendoza-Denton, & Wang, 2017) was used to assess ethnic-racial attitudes across seven domains: assimilation, miseducation, self-hatred, anti-dominant, ethnocentricity, multiculturalist inclusive, and ethnic-racial salience. Participants were directed to indicate

to what degree each question within each subscale reflected their feelings toward or about the ethnic/racial group that they identified with. Participants indicated their feelings using a 7-point Likert scale, ranging from 1 (*strongly disagree*) to 7 (*strongly agree*).

Symptoms of Psychological Problems. The 23-item DSM-5 Level 1 Cross Cutting Symptom Measure-Adult (CCS) (APA, 2013) was used as a screener to assess specific mental health domains, such as depression, anger, anxiety, and somatic symptoms, and indicate possible areas of current distress. Participants were asked to indicate how often they were bothered by the listed symptoms during the past two weeks using a Likert scale, ranging from 0 (*None*) to 4 (*Nearly every day*).

American National Election Studies 2016 Time Series Pre-Election Questionnaire (ANES). The ANES (2014) is a public database that seeks explanations of election outcomes by providing information on variables such as voting behavior and public opinion. The ANES 2016 Time Series Pre-Election Questionnaire was used to assess voting attitudes, political affiliation and engagement, social media and general media engagement, and public opinion. Questions were adapted to reflect the current president, with changes such as altering questions inquiring about ‘President Barack Obama’ to ‘President Donald Trump’.

Procedure

Focus Groups. Focus groups were conducted before the main study to determine what variables to explore. The focus groups consisted of 8-10 African American participants that signed up via SONA as fulfillment of requirements for a psychology course research requirement or as extra credit. A total of four focus groups took place and

involved an informal discussion about participants' reactions to the 2016 presidential election, their engagement in politics, and their mental health in relation to the current state of politics. Participant responses across focus groups revealed the themes of avoidance of or disengagement with the news, a general disregard for the President and national politics, and little to no feelings of distress surrounding the current state of politics. Participant responses were used to inform and formulate questions included in the survey that was used for the second portion of the study.

Main Study. Participants signed up for the study via SONA as fulfillment of requirements for a psychology course research requirement or as extra credit. Participants provided their informed consent and independently completed a series of computerized questionnaires. They were compensated with SONA credit, which was reported to their instructor and contributed to their course grade in a manner determined by that instructor. Two forms of quality assurance checks were used to ensure that participants provided meaningful responses to each question: (1) page completion time, which was assessed on longer questionnaires; and (2) directed items, which instructed participants to answer questions that were intermittently placed within the survey with a specific answer (i.e. "please choose 'maybe'"). Participants who completed questions too quickly or who failed to respond correctly to the directed items were automatically routed out of the study and did not receive SONA credit for participating in the study.

Data Analysis

All statistical analyses were performed with SPSS v25. Scale internal consistency was tested using Cronbach's alpha. The data were first examined for patterns of missing data and it was determined whether certain participants should be excluded or whether

data should be imputed. Descriptive statistics, including means and standard deviations for the primary variables were examined and associations among variables were tested using bivariate correlations.

Results

Examination of Data

The Cross Ethnic Racial Identity Scale had an acceptable level of internal consistency, as determined by Cronbach's alpha ($\alpha = .77$). Other measures were not appropriate for analysis of internal consistency because they were not designed to provide total scores related to overall constructs.

The final dataset was examined for missing data, with only two participants missing data on any item and no participant missing more than one item. Analyses were conducted using Little's test of missing completely at random (MCAR; Little, 1988) and data were determined to be missing completely at random ($\chi^2 (46) = 62.49, p = .053$). The two missing values were replaced with the participants' mean scores on the subscales on which the items were missing. After missing data was replaced, the total sample of 60 participants was used for further data analyses.

Media

Bivariate correlations were conducted to determine the relationship between time spent on social media, political interest, and symptoms of psychological problems, with African American and Caucasian students analyzed separately. There was no significant relationship between social media time and political interest for either racial group. As predicted, results revealed multiple significant relationships between social media time

and symptoms of psychological problems for the African American participants, such that more time spent on social media was associated with higher levels of symptoms. Significant positive associations were found between social media time and the domains of suicidal ideation ($r = .54, p < .05$), memory problems ($r = .51, p < .05$), repetitive thoughts and behaviors ($r = .54, p < .05$), dissociation ($r = .53, p < .05$), and anxiety ($r = .52, p < .05$). However, no significant associations were found for the Caucasian participants (see Table 2). When the correlations for each racial group were compared using Fisher r-to-z transformation, it was determined that the correlations within in each group did not differ significantly from one another.

Political Discourse

Independent samples *t*-tests and bivariate correlations (as appropriate) were conducted to determine the relationship between engaging in political discourse with friends and family, voter registration status, and political interest. The relationship between ethnic-racial attitudes and political interest was examined within each race separately, but analyses relating political discourse and voter registration were run in the entire sample as a whole. Results revealed a significant difference between non-registered voters ($M = 3.14, SD = .95$) and registered voters ($M = 2.53, SD = .94$), such that participants who were not registered to vote reported engaging in less political discourse with their friends than did registered voters, $t(57) = 2.1, p < .05$ (See Table 3). There were no significant relationships found for engaging in political discourse with family. Bivariate correlations revealed a significant positive association between political interest and frequency of conversations about politics with friends for Caucasian participants ($r = .41, p < .05$), with engaging in fewer conversations about politics with friends associated

with less interest in politics, but not for African American participants (See Table 3). Once again, Fisher *r*-to-*z* transformation determined that the correlations within in each group did not differ significantly from one another. There were no other significant relationships involving political discourse.

Voting Behavior

Independent samples *t*-tests were conducted to determine whether students who were registered to vote differed from those who were not registered to vote on socioeconomic status and ethnic-racial attitudes. Contrary to hypotheses, there were no significant differences reported for either socioeconomic status or ethnic-racial attitudes.

Symptoms of Psychological Problems

Bivariate correlations were conducted to determine the relationship between opinion that the President of the United States can perform well in his job, interest in politics, overall impression of the President, amount of attention given to current national politics, and symptoms of psychological problems. Results revealed multiple significant relationships between opinion that the President can perform well and symptoms of psychological problems for the Caucasian participants, but no associations were found for the African American participants (See Table 2). Significant positive associations were found between belief that the President cannot perform his job well (denoted by higher scores on the item) and the domains of somatic symptoms ($r = .30, p < .05$), dissociation ($r = .39, p < .05$), and personality functioning ($r = .36, p < .05$), such that lower levels of confidence in the president was associated with higher levels of symptoms.

Significant associations between symptoms of psychological problems and overall impression of the President were found for both racial groups, such that less favorable feelings about the President (denoted by higher scores on this item) were associated with higher levels of symptoms. For Caucasian participants, positive significant associations were found between overall impression of the President and the domains of memory ($r = .31, p < .05$) and personality functioning ($r = .33, p < .05$), whereas a positive significant association for African American participants was found for sleep problems ($r = .51, p < .05$). Results also revealed a significant positive relationship for African American participants between sleep problems and interest in politics ($r = .55, p < .05$) and dissociation and attention given to current national politics ($r = .50, p < .05$). However, Fisher's *r*-to-*z* transformation once again revealed no significant differences between racial the groups for any of the tested correlations.

Discussion

The purpose of this study was to explore the degree to which the current presidential administration of the United States impacted the well-being of college students, specifically African American college students. Social media time was positively associated with symptoms of psychological problems for African American participants but not Caucasian participants. However, the magnitudes of the differences between the correlations across the two racial groups were not statistically significant. These results support the existing literature that points to the impact of media use on perceiving the world in a distorted and overly negative way (Comer et. al., 2008). Further, our results not only supported Comer and colleagues' findings regarding anxiety levels but revealed a significant endorsement by African American participants of

suicidal ideation, as well. Because of the significant relationship between media use and symptoms of psychological problems, it is relevant to consider the possible context in which African Americans are engaging in media use when offering explanations. The surge in the spread of White supremacist rhetoric brought on by the election of Donald Trump as President could be a stressor that is unique to African Americans when engaging in media use. Mass media has ensured the quick and widespread prevalence of harmful and racist rhetoric that could be considered a specific stressor for people of color and could account for the presentation of symptoms of psychological problems in African American participants, but not Caucasian participants.

The hypothesis that engaging in political discourse with family and friends would correlate with political engagement was partially supported. Across racial groups, not being a registered voter was associated with engaging in less political discourse with friends. However, it was revealed that engaging in political discourse with family did not differ between registered and non-registered voters. These findings are somewhat consistent with those of Zhang et al. (2010) that suggest the discussion of political issues with family and friends elicits civic and political participation. Furthermore, within Caucasian participants, the endorsement of less political interest was associated with engaging in less political discourse with friends. This association was not significant among African American participants, though further analyses revealed that the magnitude of the difference between correlations for Caucasian and African American participants was not significant. It appears that youth are poorly engaged in political participation, such as voting, but existing literature points to the notion that youth are more involved in other facets of political participation. For example, throughout the early

2000's and 2010's, youth have exhibited a tendency to disengage from traditional political participation (i.e. voting) and have shifted toward political participation in the form of engagement in mobilization, political protests, and community involvement (Elliot & Earl, 2018; Gordon, 2007). For example, young women on college campuses have exhibited youth political participation via political protest to criticize the lack of appropriate responses by college administrators addressing the prevalence of sexual violence against women on college campuses (Whittier, 2017). Furthermore, recent youth political participation has been exhibited by youth protest and mobilization in support of the LGBT community (Miceli, 2005) and participation in the immigration reform movement led in support of the immigrant youth impacted by the DREAM Act (Nichols, 2013). Youth may appear to exhibit lower levels of political participation in the form of voting, but this does not necessarily mean they are politically disinterested or un-engaged. It is evident that youth remain politically engaged, though their involvement may manifest in various forms of participation.

Surprisingly, there were no significant associations between voter registration status and ethnic-racial attitudes or SES. These results did not support our hypotheses or the literature that suggests that higher SES individuals are more likely to engage in political participation and that people with strong ethnic-racial attitudes are more willing to politically participate (Milbrath & Goel, 1977; Diemer & Li, 2011). This could be because of the ages of many of the participants when presidential elections occurred. Over half of the sample were freshmen and sophomores, meaning that most of the participants were too young to vote in the 2016 presidential election. Further, qualitative data revealed that some of the participants were unable to vote because they were

unaware of how to vote or how to utilize absentee ballots on a college campus, suggesting that a general lack of information and understanding surrounding the voting process could be a hindrance to young adults attempting to be politically active.

Our exploratory hypotheses were partially supported. Both racial groups endorsed associations between symptoms of psychological problems and overall impression of the President, though their endorsement of specific symptoms differed. Results revealed significant associations between symptoms of psychological problems and disapproval of the President for Caucasian participants only. Finally, associations between symptoms of psychological problems, specifically sleep problems and dissociation, and interest in and attention given to national politics were found for African American participants only. These findings support existing literature suggesting that African Americans are more likely to exhibit somatic symptoms in response to distress. It has been found that heightened levels of stress may predict heightened levels of somatic complaints in African American youth (Reynolds, Papademetriou, et al., 2001) and African Americans may experience more somatic symptoms over affective symptoms of depression (Iwata, Turner, & Lloyd, 2002). However, it is important to note that these differences were not statistically significantly different across racial groups, and a larger sample size might assist in better clarifying the extent and nature of racial differences in the association between disapproval of the President and psychological symptoms.

Results should be interpreted within the limitations of this study. First, the sample used in this study is not representative of the general population, as it is overwhelmingly female and Caucasian . Results may not generalize to other groups and future studies should include a more diverse sample. Second, more in-depth analyses should be

conducted to further examine the relationship between the variables in this study. A larger sample size would allow for more complex statistical tests to be used, and the results of those might clarify the nature of relationships among these variables or produce different associations than what was found in the current study. Third, because this study is one of the first of its kind, there is ample room for improvement via types of questions asked in the survey and how data were collected. Future studies should utilize questionnaires that measure levels of stress along with symptoms of psychological problems to get a more well-rounded understanding of the impact of the presidential administration on the well-being of young adults. Further, more qualitative data should be collected alongside self-report measures to ensure a well-rounded and complex understanding of the results of the study.

In conclusion, these findings show the significant impact that the current national political climate has on the well-being of college students. This study emphasizes the importance of considering context of not only immediate environment but national political climate when examining the well-being of individuals, and suggests ways in which the experience of African Americans, in particular, could be better understood. Accordingly, this study provides a foundation for further empirical examination of the detrimental effects and consequences of a polarizing presidency.

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Table 1: *Demographics.*

Variable	N	%
Age		
18-20	39	65
21-40	20	33.4
Gender		
Male	7	11.7
Female	52	86.7
Other	1	1.7
Race		
Caucasian	43	71.7
African American	17	28.3
Academic Classification		
Freshman	20	33.3
Sophomore	18	30
Junior	11	18.3
Senior	11	18.3
Political Party		
Republican	21	35
Democrat	25	41.7
None/Independent	13	21.7
Other	1	1.7
Parents' Education*		
Some high school	6/1	10/1.7
High school/GED	17/11	28.3/18.3
Some college	8/13	13.3/21.7
Associate degree	9/11	15/18.3
Bachelor's degree	10/16	16.7/26.7
Master's degree	4/7	6.7/11.7
Doctoral degree	4/1	6.7/1.7
Not sure	2	3.3

**Note.* Left is father's highest level of education and right is mother's highest level of education.

Table 2. Associations between psychological symptoms and media time, judgments of the President's competence, and overall impression of the President.

Symptoms	Media Time	Opinion of Performance	Overall Impression
Suicidal Ideation	.231/. .541*	.265/.222	.188/.148
Psychosis	.025/.051	.192/.050	.131/.132
Sleep Problems	.229/.372	.008/.333	.013/. .506*
Memory	.061/. .511*	.282/.082	.313* /.133
Repetitive Thoughts and Behaviors	.043/. .536*	.069/.113	.020/.088
Dissociation	.142/. .527*	.390** /.133	.350* /.277
Personality Functioning	.034/.315	.360* /.427	.337* /.059
Substance Use	.138/.226	.100/.330	.168/.174
Somatic Symptoms	.028/.330	.304* /.359	.262/.079
Mania	.212/.277	.078/.449	.105/.108
Anxiety	.022/. .517*	.124/.086	.102/.194
Depression	.018/.431	.214/.299	.126/.337
Anger	.095/.319	.070/.366	.007/.104

*Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level. **Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level. *Note. Left is Caucasian participants and right is African American participants.

Table 3: *Conversations with friends between registered and non-registered voters.*

	Registered		Non-registered		<i>t</i>	df	p
	M	SD	M	SD			
Conversations with friends	2.53	.94	3.14	.95	2.1	57	.03

Table 4: *Associations between conversations with friends and political interest.*

		Political Interest
Caucasian	Conversations with friends	.408**
Black	Conversations with friends	.191

**Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level.

NOTICE OF INSTITUTIONAL REVIEW BOARD ACTION

The project below has been reviewed by The University of Southern Mississippi Institutional Review Board in accordance with Federal Drug Administration regulations (21 CFR 26, 111), Department of Health and Human Services regulations (45 CFR Part 46), and University Policy to ensure:

- The risks to subjects are minimized and reasonable in relation to the anticipated benefits.
- The selection of subjects is equitable.
- Informed consent is adequate and appropriately documented.
- Where appropriate, the research plan makes adequate provisions for monitoring the data collected to ensure the safety of the subjects.
- Where appropriate, there are adequate provisions to protect the privacy of subjects and to maintain the confidentiality of all data.
- Appropriate additional safeguards have been included to protect vulnerable subjects.
- Any unanticipated, serious, or continuing problems encountered involving risks to subjects must be reported immediately. Problems should be reported to ORI via the Incident template on Cayuse IRB.
- The period of approval is twelve months. An application for renewal must be submitted for projects exceeding twelve months.

PROTOCOL NUMBER: IRB-19-56

PROJECT TITLE: The Impact of the Presidential Administration on African American College Students

SCHOOL/PROGRAM: School of Psychology, Psychology

RESEARCHER(S): Latisha Swygert, Nora Charles

IRB COMMITTEE ACTION: Approved

CATEGORY: Expedited

7. Research on individual or group characteristics or behavior (including, but not limited to, research on perception, cognition, motivation, identity, language, communication, cultural beliefs or practices, and social behavior) or research employing survey, interview, oral history, focus group, program evaluation, human factors evaluation, or quality assurance methodologies.

PERIOD OF APPROVAL: February 12, 2019 to February 12, 2020



Donald Sacco, Ph.D.
Institutional Review Board Chairperson