



Washington State University

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Will defend their dissertation on

Date: May 26, 2026

Time: 1:00 P.M.

Zoom: Link by request ceshs.gradstudies@wsu.edu

Title:

KINSHIP-CENTERED PRACTICE: GLOBAL MAJORITY LEADERS REIMAGINING EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP

Chair: Katherine Rodela

Abstract:

This study utilized counternarrative storytelling and an anticolonial epistemological approach to study the experiences of Global Majority Educational Leaders (GMLs) who were practicing educational leadership in the Pacific Northwest. Five participants who have global majority backgrounds and who have leadership roles in K-12 public schools were involved in two phases of data collection: a semi-structured interview and a community circle. The intent of these spaces was to uncover and illuminate the strengths that these leaders uniquely brought to their educational leadership practice in service of the students and families in their communities. The researcher-participant also collected data in the form of an ongoing reflective journal which assisted in the synthesis of a collective counternarrative amongst the group, in addition to embedding an autoethnographic angle to the work. This study strove to create an emancipatory space which humanized and honored participants and encouraged them to dig into their personal stories, familial connections, and cultural wealth (Yosso, 2005). Additionally, the study hoped to identify ways in which GMLs experienced tensions between their cultural ways of existing and leading and the expectations that were imposed on them by their institutions and the larger Educational Leadership landscape. The outcomes of this study may encourage deeper and more critical conversations at the district- or state-level about the underrepresentation of GMLs in leadership roles. Finally, by highlighting the talents that GMLs bring to their leadership practice in addition to acknowledging deeper aspects of their struggle, this study aimed to support the building of solidarity which can expand the field of educational leadership to be more inclusive of diverse global perspectives.