

Public Abstract

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Department:Educational & Counseling Psychology

Degree:PhD

Title:Examining Social Class Privilege and Perceived Career Options in Adolescent Women: A Qualitative Study

The purpose of this study was to examine the impact of Social Class Worldview on adolescent women's perceived career options. This investigation into the lived experiences of these young women was conducted via qualitative methods, and specifically a modified Grounded Theory procedure. Interviews were conducted with 10 high school-age young white women of economically privileged backgrounds.

The "Model of Contextual Privilege and Career Selection in Adolescent White Women" emerged from the interviews. This model explains the process whereby privileged adolescent women take into account their beliefs about achievement, their experiences, messages from others, and their social class worldview in order to develop a list of occupational possibilities.

Overall, the findings suggest that the perception of career options in a privileged context is the result of a complicated interplay of cognitive, emotional, and experiential factors.