

Homeschooling: A Healing and Liberative Learning Modality for Black Families?

What brought you to this work?

Mendoza: As a homeschooling parent I have experienced both the ups and downs of homeschooling. One thing I know for sure is that homeschooling has allowed my family a respite from education that often centers whiteness and white dominance and, in that sheltering, has provided space for emotional, spiritual and economic healing to take place in my household. It's these experiences that I hope to bring to the work of discovering what impact homeschooling has on Black families from a holistic perspective.

Brunson: Muffy has a clear sense of her research goals. I see it as my role is to serve as a technical guide and support to her as she leads this exciting research.

Research questions

We seek to better understand: What circumstances and experiences lead Black families to homeschool, and what patterns emerge from the execution the related decisions/strategies? As part of this research, we will ask and consider:

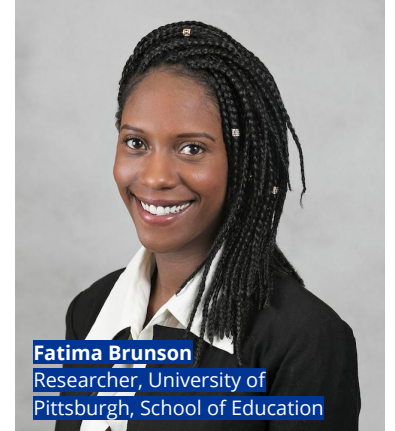
- What constructive outcomes does homeschooling have on families as a whole?
- What are the observable contrasts –if any– between their interactions as parents with their children-students prior to homeschooling versus the times when homeschooling began?
- Do homeschooling families gather more Tools of Resistance against racism and white supremacy?
- Do homeschooling families experience emotional, spiritual, economic and social “wellness” as a result of actions taken as homeschoolers (i.e. differing learning models, family cohesion, etc.)?

Research plan

Our plan is to learn via observations, conversations, and IRB-sanctioned data-gathering with a network of 10 Black homeschooling families. We will essentially operate as participant observers to gain over-standing and understanding of their thoughts (passions and doubts), behaviors (perceived achievements and obstacles); and experiences (measuring productivity or lack thereof in the execution of the family curriculum).



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