

*Along Ethnic Lines: A Quantitative Analysis of Football Athletes' Interest in and Intent on Coaching as a Career*

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In 2009 Cunningham and Singer found significant differences between student-athlete ethnicity and the five factors of Social Cognitive Career Theory (SCCT) – self-efficacy, outcome expectations, choice goals, barriers and supports – for the coaching profession. The current research extends this work and seeks to answer two questions: (a) Are there significant differences related to ethnicity in the five SCCT factors? (b) Is there a significant difference between athletes' interest and intent in coaching as a career based on the ethnicity of his position coach or coordinator ethnicity?

The study's sample ( $N = 134$ ) consisted of football players at three National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division-I institutions who self-identified their ethnicity as white or black. Participants responded to a questionnaire designed to assess the major constructs from SCCT.

Descriptive statistics and independent sample t-tests were used to identify significant differences based upon athlete ethnicity measurements on the five factors of SCCT. The results indicated statistically significant differences for both self-efficacy ( $p = .009$ ) and barriers ( $p < .0005$ ). In addition, ANOVA revealed no significant differences between black and white athletes' interest and intent to enter coaching college football as a profession and the ethnicity of the athletes' position coach or coordinator.

These findings support the hypotheses that black athletes have lower self-efficacy and perceive higher barriers to coaching as a career path. The current findings are consistent with Cunningham and Singer's (2009) research on ethnic discrimination in collegiate athletics. This presentation will discuss the current findings and discuss the need for future research in order to answer the following questions: (a) What are the factors contributing to black athletes' lower self-efficacy? (b) What are the barriers black athletes perceive? And (c) What policy recommendations might be appropriate in order to overcome identified barriers?