

EXAMINING EVALUATIONS WHEN INSTRUCTORS AND STUDENTS HAVE BACKGROUNDS THAT MATCH

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ABSTRACT

Representatives from the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences recently approved changes to diversify membership, addressing concerns of bias in favor of actors with similar backgrounds. Can teacher evaluations be influenced by the ethnic match between students and professors? This research, which was supported by a grant from the Donald and Sally Lucas Graduate School of Business, takes an exploratory look. Many Business majors in this study were the first in their family to attend college. Preliminary analyses suggest that the effect of matching—influenced by many factors—is complex and, at times, multidirectional.