



## **SOCIAL CLASS DISCRIMINATION AMONG ADOLESCENTS: ASSOCIATIONS WITH ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT AND PSYCHOLOGICAL WELL-BEING**

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Room Ponzo (III floor)  
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To date, scholars have drawn on psychological and counseling theories to illuminate the challenges that adults encounter in colleges, institutions, and broader society as a function of their social class. Noting a significant gap in the literature concerning adolescence, Dr. Mello advanced a novel theoretical framework (Mello, 2024) to conceptualize adolescents' experiences of social class discrimination. According to this framework, such experiences may involve both overt forms of mistreatment, such as harassment, and more subtle forms, such as social exclusion. The theory further identifies classmates, friends, and teachers as potential sources of social class discrimination. Expanding our understanding of the factors that shape the association between social class and adolescent development is critically important, particularly given the robust links between social class, academic achievement, and mental health.

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