

# A sense of belonging: A qualitative study on Students use of space and place on campus

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# Literature Review

- >Better understand the relationship that students have within the new campus
- >Its environment
- >Degree of place identity the student has towards their use of space for a feeling of belongingness
- >Why students choose certain places within the campus

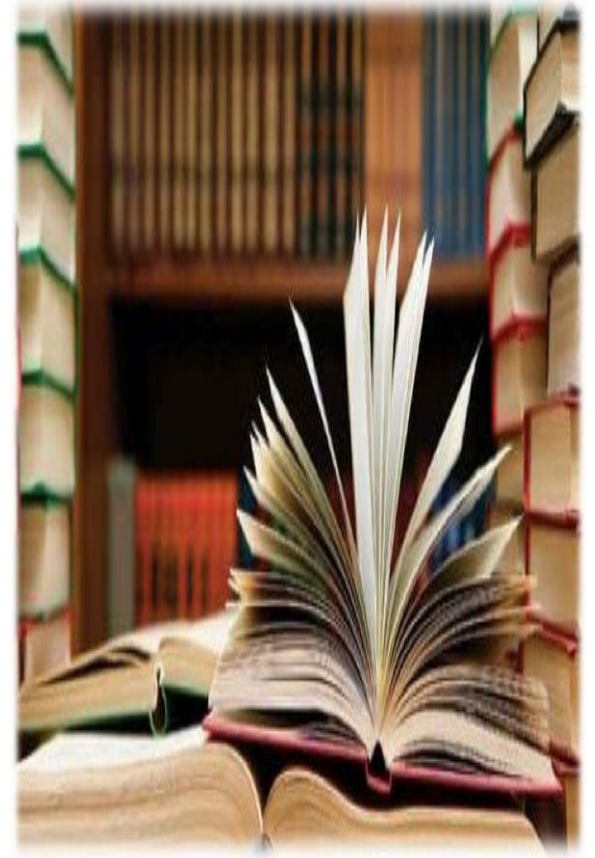
## Theory's

The way a building is built can help with place identity(M, Fabian, & Kaminoff, 2019)

Places/spaces are important for young people(Abbot-Chapman & Robertson, 2015)

Belonging is linked to engagement(Thomas,2012)

Young people will turn spaces/places into their own place (Brighenti, 2010)



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# Research Questions

- Which spaces/places on campus do students most identify with
- How are these spaces / places used by these students
- In what ways do students perceive different spaces / places to engender a sense of belonging

Cont.....

# Procedure

- Pilot study
- Ethical Consideration
- Dissertation Proposal
- Ethical Approval



## . Study Procedure



# Results

## Superordinate Themes

- Student Identity
- Best Social Place
- Outside Environment
- Privacy
- Lecture Room
- Use of Library

## Subthemes

- Symbols - The Labs – Foyer – Library/Books
- Welcoming – Beverages – Belonging - Socializing/Social student
- Weather - Scenery
- Booths – Library
- Design - Most productive/Gaining knowledge – Student identity
- Identity – Encouragement/Good Resources – Comfort/Welcome
- Most Productive place

# Discussion

- **Student Identity-** Sense of belonging to the university-Being part of a group or community  
Students express their identity, through the environment, supported by Erikson(1950) and Rosenberg (1979) and M,Fabian & Kiminoff,(2019)
- **Best Social Place-** How students felt welcome, socializing with friends, gives a sense of belonging, supported by Ostrove & Long (2007)
- **Outside Environment-** Engenders a sense of belonging, students made spaces into their places, supported by Abbot-Chapman & Roberson, (2015)
- **Privacy-** Spaces/places that were private on campus, students used the spaces as their own territory, supported by Brighenti,(2010)
- **Feeling excepted –** Linked to engagement, supported by Thomas,(2012)
- **Use of the library-** Gave student identity, the books, journals, encouragement to work, the built environment, giving a person identity, supports the theory of place identity by Lefebvre,(1991) and Breakwell, (1986)

Cont..

# Discussions cont....

- **Meaningful place-** To chill, feel comfortable, place to relax or do work, supports Hanan, (2013)
- **Students can use any space or place-** To study on campus to give a sense of belonging, supported by Anggiane & Heryanto, (2018)





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- Sample size
- Significant insight
- Wider Proportion of participants, not just students
- Longitudinal Research
- Research to help educational professionals

# »»» Conclusion →

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- The importance of students belongingness on campus
- Student identity was strengthened when students felt like they belonged to the university
- Friends and socializing was central to the feeling of belonging
- Staff
- Spaces/places on Campus
- Environment

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