

R. Davis Dixon, Ph.D. is an assistant professor of developmental psychology at Howard University. Dixon's research explores issues of belonging, identity, and culture across the lifespan. As the leader of the Belonging, Learning, Identity, and Culture lab, he has collected data with colleagues from partnering universities to examine the relationships between gender, cultural, and racial identities, as well as various psychological, educational, and relational outcomes. Trained in the educational context, future work under consideration would include exploring how student academic outcomes are predicted by perceptions of mattering, belonging, and trust; how the match/mismatch between student and teacher perceptions of school climate influences student academic outcomes; and how preservice teachers are trained to teach Black students.

Dixon's passion is to do research that enhances the lived experiences of Black people across the lifespan. While that has primarily fallen inside the educational arena, Dixon is poised to be nimble and engage in work that speaks to the current sociopolitical context. Thus, issues that are popular on Main Street will surely find themselves front and center in his lab's work. Previously, Dixon was an assistant professor of developmental psychology at Hampton University. Before that, he served as a senior associate for P-12 research at the Education Trust, a nonprofit, education civil rights organization. In this role, Dixon conducted primary and secondary research to inform discussion and debate among education decision-makers at the national, state, and local levels. Dixon completed his master's and doctoral work in developmental psychology at Howard University and holds a bachelor's in psychology from North Carolina Central University.