

Jessica Marmolejos
PhD Human Development and Family Sciences student
University of Missouri

undergraduate institution when I got to study abroad in Madrid, Spain. Exploring Spain, and other countries, not only gave me access to learn various cultures but I also realized how much I enjoyed travelling. I was experiencing new surroundings as well as learning the history of the places I was visiting along with the history of the people. Once the COVID-19 pandemic shut

graduate school that I was presented with a travel opportunity. My advisor, Dr. Landor, informed the lab that after a much-awaited chance to travel, the lab was able to visit Cape Town, South Africa and conduct research at a local university, the University of Western Cape. At the university, we would be conducting similar interviews that we were doing at the University of Missouri: asking participants about colorist messages and how those messages have influenced how they see themselves and others. Upon hearing this news, the lab began to prepare what was required of us as research assistants and visiting scholars to the University of Western Cape.

While hearing that we were going to travel to South Africa was exciting news,



that we needed to recruit more participants for the study. With some students, most of the research team began to recruit students on campus. This came with some difficulty as there was a language barrier, along with some differences in how participants are to be recruited. After speaking with students and passing out flyers, we were able to have 74 participants, all spread out in focus groups of 3 to 12 people. What students shared

were very important when talking about the history of colorism and discrimination in South Africa as it gave us an inside look into how colorism presents itself every day in South Africa. I had some qualitati

