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Title: Are We Really That Different? Examining Departmental Differences

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**About the
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Abstract: In this paper, I discuss the results of an ethnographic project about the differences between the Business Management Department and the Sociology and Anthropology Department at Illinois State University. Using interview with 6 students and university published materials, I show that students choose their major in a field that they felt would be most beneficial in the career that they plan to obtain. Based on these preliminary findings, I argue that students see their academic experience at the university as career training and recommend that the university realize that students have valid suggestions as to how to improve the curriculum offered, such as, more offered internship and more specific areas of study within majors.

Initial Exercises: In comparing the mission statement of the Sociology and Anthropology Department with the mission statement of the Business department on thing becomes obvious. The Sociology and Anthropology statement is much shorter and contains much less detail when compared to the statement of the Business department. Without looking at the actual content of the articles the Business Dept. statement appears to be much more in depth and informative and if one were deciding between the two, the Business Depts. appears to be much more compelling.

Continuing with visual comparison of the two documents, the Soc. and Anth. Dept. contains three bullet pointed short statements. Where as the Business Dept. has five bullet points followed by eight "Steps" that they will follow to achieve their mission.

Soc and Anth. Begin with a statement that pertains to the students and imparting knowledge that they will be able to use. Again the second point begins with students and that creating and environment inside and out of the college that will optimize "student development, shared

responsibility for learning, and academic achievement.” Notice academic achievement is mentioned last and the development of the student is first. This probably indicated that the focus of the department is not necessarily focused on academic achievement numbers but more on what the student gets out of their experiences in this major. This is not to say that academic is not a priority and with further investigation there maybe evidence that academic achievement is more important than the student’s experience. Lastly, is the focus on the faculty and staff and a commitment to putting the right professors in the right areas where they are best suited to instruct students.

The Business dept. mission statement begins with a focus on the perception of the department. They want to achieve respect for the college. The focus then turns to developing professionals with dedication, ethic, and lastly life long learning capabilities. The learning capabilities were placed last on this list. Again, like in the Soc and Anth. Dept. it remains to be investigated as the where the actual focus of the department in reality lies, whether it is to production of numbers and grades or the actual development of students. The focus of this department compared to the other is that there is a clearer more focus ideal graduate, meaning that an ideal graduate of the business department will have an “individualized educational experience to develop the business skills and appreciation for continuous learning necessary to succeed in a dynamic global economy.” The mission of the University is echoed in that the business department strives to create a small individualized experience while in a large university. The last section of the mission statement pertains to the students. This section contains five bullet points. The first three are similar to Soc and Anth in that they deal with providing students with classes that work for them with the resources that they need and professors that fit the curriculum. The last two points are different from the Soc and Anth mission

statement. These deal with adjusting curriculum to outside markets to produce a graduate that will fit into the market. The last point deals with building and maintaining relationship with outside parties. This I assume is to create opportunities for internships, financial support and to be able to support the previous point by having real world partners. These two mission statements are very similar and very different at the same time. One seems to be an overview of what the college hopes to achieve and the other is quite specific and even continues past the mission statement with steps to how they will achieve this mission. There are a few questions that were raised while looking at these documents. What is the perception of the mission statements of students in the major and student from the other major? What is the perception of the faculty and staff from both majors pertaining to the statements? How closely is the statement followed by each department? There are many other questions to be asked but these were a few that came up while examining the documents.

Question: The question that I am going to begin investigating is how closely does a department in Illinois State University follow their mission statement? I would most likely begin with the Sociology Anthropology Department because that is a department that I have the most access to and is small enough to work with for just one semester. I would like to compare my findings in this department with another department. In the previous assignment I compared the Business Department with the Sociology and Anthropology Department and found similarities and differences in what they had stated in their mission statement. I know that there is a difference in the philosophies of these departments but I wondered how the perceptions of individuals in each department differed. More specifically how accurate is the mission statement to the actual experience of those in the department?

I was inspired to begin looking at these two departments because of

previous experience in the Sociology Department. I have had professors and other students who seemed to have some animosity toward the Business department for whatever reasons that they personally had. In past experience I have found that opposite sides of an issue usually have much more in common than either side is willing to admit. In this case I know that the philosophies of the departments cause a division but I wonder is there really much of a difference in practice or in experience of the students and staff.

I would like to go about researching this question by finding students and staff of the Sociology and Anthropology Department and to interview them. I would have a copy of the mission statement and have them read it so that they are familiar with what the official purpose of the department is officially. Then a series of questions would follow about the general feeling and experience of the department is and how they feel about the statement, more specifically how closely they feel their experience is to the stated goal of the department. Time willing, I would like to do an identical sample of the Business department and compare the two. This would show a more complete view of the University and effectiveness of their stated mission. This information could then be compared to examine if there is much of a difference between the two departments or if it is just an emotional perception.

My initial question is how closely does the Sociology and Anthropology department at Illinois State University follow their mission statement? Time permitting I would like to also look at the Business Department and compare the similarities and differences of the departments.

Revised question: How do comparable departments within Illinois State University compete over resources, funding, enrollment, etc?

Oct 21.

I would like to focus on the inter- departmental competition and what effects that it has on curriculum. I would like to look at how external donations are distributed and what effect outside money (non state funding) has on curriculum.

Oct 22.

I will be comparing the Sociology Department (265 students) and the Business Management Department (279 students)

Oct. 30

I won't be focusing on the competition between department. I will instead ask what are the differences between departments and how to they operate differently, if they are in fact that different?

Final Question.

Are there any institutional differences between the Sociology and Anthropology department and the Business Management and Quantitative Methods Department? Are there differences between the students in each major, such as their reason for choosing, experiences or expectations of what they will gain from there academic experience?

Plan: Oct. 22

- Review emails from departments.
- Begin interview scheduling

Oct. 24

- Start interview question list
- Research

Oct. 29

- Transcribe interview

Data: I decided to split my observation time between Schroeder Hall and the College of Business Building. I expect that the students that I will observe will act and dress similarly. I feel that there will not be very many differences between the two areas. I expect to see students walking back and forth to class possibly with friends. I also think that I

will see students gathering in public areas conversing together.

I decided to observe for 15 minutes in a public area in both of the buildings. In Schroeder Hall the lounge area on the second floor seemed like an opportune place to observe students that attend class in this building. I noticed that students either walked alone or with one other student. There were no large groups of people or even three people together. Those walking alone were either on the phone, listening to a personal music device or simply walking with the crowd. Those walking with another student were engaged in conversations. Those conversations were usually about down time and not of classes. I expect the physical attributes of the building to be important to comparing the departments. This building was looked up to date. The hallways were clean and equipped with benches that were often used by students who were reading on them.

The Business Building was similar as far as the appearance of the students. There were many more professionally dressed students but other than attire they acted in a very similar fashion. There was a difference in the use of the public space in this building. There were not many if any students studying on the benches in the hall but there was an lounge area that was used by many students who appeared to be studying or waiting for their next class. The building itself was new and very modern. It gave off a feeling of an office building built to impress. There were live plants, art work in the hallways, high back chairs with laptop computer desks attached and flat screen TV's with business news scrolling.

I feel that what I observed as far as student activity was what I expected. The differences in the buildings were more than I expected. I looked at the little details of the building and did not realize that the Business building had so many little touches compared to Schroeder Hall. I was not sure what to observe other than what stood out to me.

Interview

Who qualifies as a friend?

Someone who I talk to on a regular basis and hang out with on the weekends.

Who are the people that you spend most of your time with?

My roommate, the girls on my floor and the floor above me, and my friends from high school.

How did you meet each of these people?

I met my roommate and a few girls on my floor last year. I met my friends from high school in kindergarten, and I met the others this year because of mutual friends.

Oct 22

Assignment 20

http://www.alumni.ilstu.edu/photo/cob_photo/index.shtml

<http://www.alumni.ilstu.edu/photo/schroeder/>

I choose two photos albums. One is of the Business building and the other is of Schroeder Hall. I found these in the Alumni Associations link on Illinois State's web site. These are presented for alumni to be able to come to the site and look at what has been built on campus and where their donations might be going. The majority of the photos in each of the albums shows the building or the renovation of each respective building.

The two photos that I want to focus on are the first in each of the albums. The Schroeder Hall picture is of the south end taken from the area near the flag poles. The building is obscured by trees. There are students walking by. It appears that this picture was taken during regular hours of a normal day on campus. This picture is taken before the renovation and there aren't any newly posted pictures of the finished building.

The picture of the COB is much different than that of Schroeder Hall. This appears to be an aerial view. I assume that this would have been taken from a helicopter, plane or at least some sort of lift. This means that there was planning and time taken for this specific picture to get a grand view of the building.

These pictures tell in some way the importance of displaying what the University

has done. The COB is shown finished and was important enough to have specific aerial photos taken of it. Schroeder Hall is not shown finished. The location of these photo albums is important. These are posted to show alumni what their donations go. The fact that the COB is shown finished and Schroeder Hall is not shows the importance of getting the interest of alumni and possible donations.

Assignment 23

ISU professors made on average in 2004 \$75,300, associate professors \$58,100 and assistant professors \$52,800. The national average for professors was \$88,078, associate professors \$63,509 and assistant professors \$53,292. This shows a larger version of my study where different universities would be compared and the salaries of the professors may have some bearing on the curriculum. This data shows that ISU is below the national trends for pay of professors. Why would a professor choose to work at a university that pays less? Is it because they want to work here because of benefits, grants for their study, because they like working here or because this is where they were hired? I will be comparing two departments and the pay of the professors and how that effects what the departments can offer. The fact that ISU is pays lower for professors and associate professors is interesting because these are the very qualified people and why would they not want to work somewhere where they would make more money. This brings up the question of the ISU as just the university and maybe what it offers professors academically out weighs the monetary aspect.

Assignment 19

This is an interview with a sophomore business management major. This was conducted in one of the dining hall on campus. I feel that this is interesting because in of this persons realization that in choosing a major that they felt would

broaden their education, they were actually narrowing and limiting their choices. Each interview that I conducted on its own is not that revealing because I did not have much time with each person. But, in the larger comparison of the interviews will show a better picture.

Interview A

d) "Why did you pick you major?"

A) "I didn't know what I wanted to do and I wanted something that would let me get a job after school. I didn't want something specific"

d) "What do you mean specific?"

A) "I wanted to go in to Speech Pathology and Audiology but I didn't want to get out of school and not be qualified for jobs other than in speech pathology."

d) "Are you satisfied with your choice?"

A) "Umm, no, I feel like I am missing out. I know my friends in other areas get to take classed in biology and in physics. I would like to have more rounded class schedule because my friends that are in education get to take things like sociology and biology classes."

d) "You said that you didn't want to be too specific when you chose your major but it seems that by choosing it you have limited the classes that you are able to take. Do you feel that way?"

A) "Yeah I feel that it has forced me in one direction.

A) I don't feel that the requirements as are beneficial at all. Why do I have to take certain classes, like Accounting, I think that it is ridiculous. I have a business English class that I have written 3 paper for a total of 75 pages. I would much rather have the option of taking an internship instead to get real world experience.

d) "What do you plan to do with you major after school?"

A) "Do you mean career wise of life wise?"

d) "Which ever."

A) "Ok, I would like to start a career as soon as possible so that I can begin to work my way up. I don't want to be stuck in a job that doesn't let me move up the steps. I want to be able to pursue my masters through the company so that I don't have to do that on my own. I want to become financially stable, maybe buy a

apartment or maybe a house. I don't necessarily want to get married right after college but soon after would be nice."

d) "What do you think is valuable about your major?"

A) "Oh, I have a good answer for this one. I get to learn how to work in the business world but also how to live in the business world. I know how to negotiate, get insurance for myself because I know what all the terms mean now, I could be able to finance a car, it has helped me a lot with the practical means of the real world. I get to learn the broad strokes of the business world."

d) "What do your parents do?"

A) "My mom is a kindergarten teacher and my dad is an insurance broker."

d) "What would you consider your socio-economic status, like lower, middle or upper class?"

A) "I would say upper middle class because my parents are able to take care of paying for college and car payments so that I can be debt free after I get out of school."

d) "Are you here for a degree or to enrich your mind?"

A) "I really think that I am here to learn more about the real world. I know it sounds corny but I have met people here that have enriched my life."

Discuss: Introduction

- a. ?
- b. ?

Literature Review

- a. Still in progress

Methods

- a. department published info comparison
- b. salary differences and implication
- c. interview

Findings

- a. department published info
- b. salary findings
- c. interviews

- Management Department

- a. Individual response findings
- b. Compared response

-Sociology Department

- a. Individual response findings
- b. Compared response

Conclusion

Introduction

This project began as a comparative study of the differences in two departments on campus Management and Quantitative Methods and the Sociology department. The methods were going to be to talk to administration and to collect records and financial information. It became clear that this project would be better suited to talk to students and to see why they had chosen their major in these two departments and to see if they differed. Also, to collect public information on the departments and to see if the expectation of the department matched with the students.

Methods

I began by looking at the websites of each of the schools and respective departments. This led me to compare mission statements of the Management and Sociology departments. I felt that it was important to find out what the curriculum each department set out to teach their students. This information was also found on the web sites.

Professors are an integral part in the college experience. I needed to know what the pay for the average professor was in each department. The exact pay of each professor is public knowledge and is kept at the library. I averaged the salaries of both departments. This average included professors, assistant professors and associate professors. This would allow me to observe how the school keeps the most qualified professors for the departments.

The major findings in my research were done through interviews. I sat down with students from both the Management and Sociology departments. These allowed me the opportunity to ask them why they were in the major that they were in, do they like it and why are they in college. The information gathered from these interviews is the backbone of my study.

Findings

Every department in every college sets out to accomplish a mission. This dictates the entire program. This includes how and what the professors can teach, how the students experience the school and why students choose that particular program. The mission statements that are presented by departments are carefully worded and revised multiple times because this statement is of great importance in presenting the department to the public. This is the departments chance to sum up why they are in campus and why a student or a professor should come to that particular college. This is the comparison between the Management & Quantitative Methods Department in the College of Business and the Sociology Department in the College of Arts and Sciences.

Sociology has a mission statement that at first glance one would think that it must be very to the point because it seems short. The very first bullet point is aimed at helping “students learn, understand, discover and apply knowledge about sociology” This matches with the first bullet point of the Management. Both are offering an environment that will allow students to learn in the best way possible. This is where the similarities end.

The next bullet point for the Sociology department is for creating the good environment for students to learn and be comfortable with professors “both inside and outside the class room.” This point seems to be promoting community that will allow for students to grow to their potential and to share the responsibility of their education. This is much different from the next points from the Management department. The next bullet point from this mission statement has to do with using the newest technology in teaching and communication between students and the professors. The Sociology department is promoting a responsible learning atmosphere and the Business Management is promoting a technologically knowledge able student body.

The students are left out of the rest of the mission statements from both departments. This is also the last bullet point from the Sociology Department. This last point is for the professors. This encourages and rewards the professors to work in their fields of interest and strengths. The Management department echoes the idea of promoting professors development. The first three bullets are very similar and seem to be very calculated. These departments and all other departments would probably be required to have something similar in the first three statements and these would no doubt have to go through an approval stage.

This may be similar to the case of a resisted student organization (RSO) and their bill of right. The RSOs are given document that has certain required statements that they are to fill out to describe their organization. The university no doubt has some control over what is said in these mission statements because similar wording is used in both mission statements in their first three bullet point.

The Management department continues on with two more bullet points in their mission statement. These statements are very specific to the business world. The first is to “target and promote” their college in these markets. The last bullet point is to “build and maintain partnerships with key constituents.” These points are very much business driven and the mission is clear. They want the college to be widely recognized in the business world, not just so that students have opportunities after they graduate but so that they may attract professors from the business world that would bring more prestige to the department and promote the schools name in the real world.

The missions of the departments are similar. They want to allow students to grow and learn in the best way through a optimal environment, the students should have open lines of communication with the college and feel comfortable doing so and the professors are to serve the students in the best way possible and are to excel in teaching, scholarship, and service. After these three main points the Management department goes further to assure those who are reading this that they are out in the business world promoting the college and that if one were to participate in the department that their would be connections to the outside business world.

Along with the mission statements there is a description of the curriculum. There will obviously be a difference in the classes that are offered in these two departments but the reasoning for the curriculum is something that should be brought to out attention. The Management department emphasizes theory, practical application and networking opportunities. The main idea of this curriculum is real world application and job training. The Sociology department’s curriculum and reason for teaching this way is different. This department promotes an academic application. The thought processes are emphasized rather than specific job training.

This leads to the next finding, the monetary compensation or salaries of professors. The Management Department average yearly mean salary is \$119,586. The Sociology Department average yearly mean salary is \$80, 676. These numbers include the professors, associate professors and assistant professors salaries. This is an almost \$40,000 difference between the departments. This has to do with the real world influences on the university. The Sociology professor has a limited selection of jobs outside of academia. This means that there is little chance that the Sociology professor is going to be lured away from the university by some high paying job else where. This is much different for the Management Department. The professors in this college hold very socially valuable knowledge.

That is not to say that sociologists don't but business knowledge is much more marketable. The Management Department must keep their salaries high enough to keep these professors from entering into the business world.

Interviews

First I will discuss the interviews from the individual interview, then from the departments from which they are from, compare the difference and lastly do the students view match up with what the university states.

I interview David, a sophomore Management major, in a cafeteria on campus. In talking to him he had little to say. He was focused on the basic question and would not elaborate much further than exactly what I had asked him. The first question I asked was why he had chosen his major. "I choose it because there are opportunities in more fields. You get to communicate with more people and you get to use your leadership. There are just a lot of opportunities in more than one specific area. If one area fails then there are others to fall back on." Next, was what he found most valuable about his major. "The most valuable thing about my major is the networking. It's how you get a job." He did not know what he wanted to do with his major after school and that was his justification for being in a major with "opportunities." His lack of specific direction may be due to the fact that he is a sophomore and that he really has no idea as to what he would want to be doing in the future.

Matt is a senior International Business and Management major. He is a double major and much further along in the academic process than David. This is what he told me about why he chose his major. "Well, I knew that I was business oriented. Also, I knew that picking something in business would be safe. There are a lot of benefits of international business. I picked up my second major which is management because I found out that I could do it by only adding a few more hours to my schedule and come out with a double major and still graduate in 5 years." Again here is the idea of choosing business as being safe and a good choice because it will likely lead to a job after graduation. Matt echoes that the skills that a student gets in Management are directly applicable to the business world but adds that the skills are also useful in life. "Definitely with organizational leadership teaching the importance of being a good leader and the qualities of being a good leader are applicable to anything in life. And, with the way the world is changing these days, having a background and a degree in international business will help me deal with that change" He seems to have a much more rounded idea of what he is learning in business and how that applies to his life in general. He does stress the theme that what he is learning will directly help him get a job.

The last Management major that I interview was Mary, a sophomore. The conversation began like it had with all the other Management majors. "I didn't

know what I wanted to do and I wanted something that would let me get a job after school. I didn't want something specific." There is that theme of nothing specific but skills that are directly transferable to the career market and that would be valuable to an employer. This is where she began contradicting herself. She mentioned that she had feelings of "missing out" on other aspects of academia by only having a broad array of business classes. She didn't have the freedom to take other classes that interested her because they wouldn't count towards her degree. "Yeah, I feel that it has forced me in one direction." This is why there are majors, so that people can specialize in a certain field but within that field Mary seemed unhappy about the requirements and unclear to their purpose. "I don't feel that the requirements as are beneficial at all. Why do I have to take certain classes, like Accounting, I think that it is ridiculous. I have a business English class that I have written 3 papers for a total of 75 pages. I would much rather have the option of taking an internship instead to get real world experience." This multitude of classes that are required are obviously there to make a student a more rounded business major and learning theory and the basic skill are necessary but not my Mary's standards. She brings up very valuable points. What better way to be prepared for the real world that to have learned and worked in it already.

She has an interesting answer as to why she feels that Management and the Business department in general is important. "Oh, I have a good answer for this one. I get to learn how to work in the business world but also how to live in the business world. I know how to negotiate, get insurance for myself because I know what all the terms mean now, I could be able to finance a car, it has helped me a lot with the practical means of the real world. I get to learn the broad strokes of the business world." She previously stated that she wanted to be able to take different classes that would round out her education more fully, yet she seems to feel that what she is learning is very valuable for her future career possibilities and for her life. This is probably attributed to her age and position in her academic career but she seems torn between learning and absorbing college for all that is has or learning to become a highly marketable employee.

The Marketing major all seemed to agree that what they were learning was something that will be very valuable to them in the future. That future that they all stress was career focused. The majority of the aspects that they described to me as being important were important because it made them marketable in the business world. There were contradictions. They all chose something that they felt was broad and would allow them to choose from whatever they wanted as far as a career. I feel that by choosing Management they have limited themselves to the corporate world. The skill that they will be learning will be directed to be marketable. This is what the Management mission statement contains. These people are being molded into these "well-defined markets." This is what they all states as being important; starting a career as soon as possible and with their highly marketable skill and the department's dedication to marketing their

students they are well on their way to their career goals.

The Sociology majors seemed to have a different view of education. Sara is a senior sociology major. She describes why she chose sociology as, “My mom majored in sociology and I grew up with the idea of seeing the world as a result of social factors. I was always interested in how social factors affect life and I like writing so it works for me.” This may seem different from the Management students but as discovered from talking to the Management students they all have someone in their lives who works in the business world. Sara’s situation is different because of the people that I spoke with she was the only one that was influenced by someone in their family to study sociology. The discussion of jobs or future in sociology is where the conversation differs from Management. “Yeah, I enjoy it even though getting a job with it isn’t that great. You pretty much have to go to grad school. The program is good and the professors are great but there really isn’t any individual direction. There are topics that I am interested in and I have to do that research on my own instead of having a class for it. But, yeah I enjoy it; it makes you a well rounded person.” There is the knowledge that this major won’t make you irresistible to an employer but the idea of being a “well rounded person” is important to her. Though unlike in Management there is some want of a specific direction, where in Management it seems to come with a specific direction. She responded to my question of why sociology was a valuable major as, “Sociology is valuable because it trains your mind to think critically. You learn to research. You can see social situations from a different perspective. There is a lot of group work, presentations and research. It allows you to go into the work force or grad school with a broad set of skills. Plus, you can relate to people better when you can see things from a different aspect.” There is first the stressing of the thinking critical aspect of sociology and then the discussion of how the skill sets learned would be useful in the real world.

Liz is a senior sociology major. She described why she was a sociology major was, “because in junior college I took a sociology class and it was my favorite. Also, I wanted something that had a lot to offer, like a wide variety of jobs. Not just something specific. Also, it sounds so lame, but I want to help people. I want to work with underprivileged people.” This has as to do with a career choice but it first began with an interest in the subject. She like Sara acknowledges that with the skill set learned that there is no specific career path that she needs to follow. “It would be nice to have a specific skill though.” This is interesting because unlike Management that teaches you skill and says this is where you can use this. Sociology is lacking in that specific skill area. She does agree with what Sara said about the value of sociology, that it “gives you a different outlook.” After the interview questions were over Liz, Sara and I met back up to leave and so that I could clear up any further questions about the study and they both brought up interesting points about what a Sociology degree really gives a person looking to go into a sociologically related field. Liz said, “I want to be able to go and help people now. I have the heart and mind to do it but I don’t have the skills. The skill

that I have they hire locals to do that. The stuff that they need in these areas requires certain skills. I would have to work at a not for profit for 5-10 years before I would be able to get a job that I really want.” Sara followed with ““Yeah, your experience shapes the jobs that you can get not the sociology degree.” This is telling of the experience of sociology major. They seem to be trained how to think and analyze but when leaving college those skill are not marketable on the job market. This is similar to the complaint that Mary had, that the school should offer internships to get real experience rather than just learning about it.

Dan is a senior sociology major. His interview was short and to the point. In asking why he choose his major he responded, “the reason why is because I used to be a psychology but I had too many hours by the time I actually applied to the major. So, I was looking at the classes that I liked and the next semester after that I took a sociology class in Latino studies.” He like Liz had taken a sociology class and like it so they choose it. I this case though the university policy kept a student out of their first choice and forced them into something else, though he said that he was satisfied with his situation. He also states similarly to both Liz and Sara when asked about the value of his major. “It’s valuable because you get a view of reality of our world and how society shapes how people act and think. You get to realize how the world is constructed.”

The sociology majors all had similar reasons as to why they liked their major and as to why they felt that it was valuable. They felt that it changes the way that you see the world and that is something that was valuable to them and to others around them. The issue of jobs or lack there of in this field was never instigated by myself and was usually brought up quickly. These people know that they are getting into something that is not marketable outside of academia yet they are in it still. Why? They all stated that being able to think critically and to look at the world through different lenses was important to them. Two of the people I interviewed chose the major outright because it was a way that they could attain at least the mental skills, not experience, in the field that they want to eventually enter into. The other fell into it because of university policy but still could see the value in the major.

Conclusion

There is definitely a difference of overt motivation for why someone would choose Management over Sociology or vice versa. The reasons are clear for someone in the “real world.” Business skills will get you that job out of school and you will make more money. Even if you come back to college and teach you would make a considerable amount more than in another field. Sociology is a less understood by most people outside of academia in my experience and therefore does not carry as much social value. Though everyone that I talked with knew how or had a plan of how they could take what they had learned and turn it into a career. College has become a place to learn a skill set that is necessary to be

qualified for a job. In the class time that is spent learning a skill or theory that a student does not see as useful to their future career they think of it as a waste of time. This is true across all majors. There are differences between these departments but that is why they are two departments not one. One is focused on producing students with a clear set of applicable skill to a workforce that they are involved. The other department is focused on teaching the students a thought process and a less visible or understood skill set that would be best used to get in to grad school rather than a business position. Students are similar to a point but what they consider important will determine their major choice. In Sociology it is to gain a different world view and to do research. In Management it is to gain the skills to begin a career in the business world and to begin networking for those positions.

EUI Links: <http://www.ideals.uiuc.edu/handle/2142/1896>

Reflect: Oct. 22

I feel that my research has not been going very well so far. I have been having a lot of trouble getting a time to meet with the heads of sociology and the business management department. I want to talk to them about budgets among other things to determine if there is really a difference between the two departments. I am beginning to see that this might be difficult. I have compared the salaries of the two departments and i think that this will give me some idea of some differences. Over all this project is very difficult to research. I feel that I do not have enough access of enough time to really begin to even scratch the surface.

Recommendations:

- Students want readily available internship opportunities in both majors
- Sociology students want a more specific curriculum
- The university is seen as job training for the most part by the students that were interviewed
- Sociology job training course was not mentioned. Most likely in need of change to be made more effective.