






Toward An Understanding of School Achievement

From *Affirming diversity* by Sonia
Nieto, 1996.





**No single factor can explain
academic achievement or
lack of it.**

Deficit Theories

- Persistent theories of the 60's
- Culturally deprived, economically disadvantaged, genetic deprivation
- Compensatory education - programs that were based on perceived deficiencies of students

Alternative Explanations of Underachievement

- Problems caused by school structures replete with classism, racism, and sexism (developed in the 70's)
- Cultural incompatibilities that exist between home and school
- Culturally responsive teaching (CRT)
- School's perception of students

Social Reproduction Theories

- Bourdieu - some cultures have more status and thus, dominant group is privileged over the subordinate group
- Inequality between schools and social reproduction studies pointed to lack of cultural and psychological explanations (Anyon and Wilcox)

Ogbu on Voluntary and Involuntary Immigrants

- “The problem lies in the nature of the history, subjugation, and exploitation that (the involuntary immigrants) have experienced together with their own responses to the treatment.” (p.239)

Other Theories

- Resistance Theory
- Cortez' contextual interactive model:
educational input factors, student
qualities, instructional elements