

**Moving Beyond Enrollment: . . .**

**First-Generation and/or . . .**

**Low-Income Students at Elite . . .**

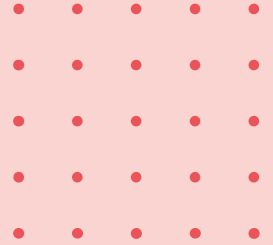
**Colleges . . .**

. . .

. . .

**Presentation by Kaoutar Afif**

# Research Question and Theory



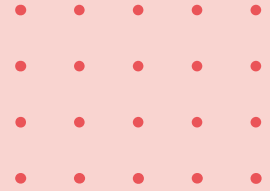
## Research Question

In which ways do low-income and/or first-generation (FLI) students enrolled in elite colleges face unique sociocultural, financial, and academic at college? That is, how do these students navigate these challenges in comparison to their upper-class counterparts?

## Theory

FLI students at elite colleges experience higher rates of sociocultural, financial, and academic challenges than their upper-class counterparts. FLI students report higher feelings of isolation, stress levels, and financial obstacles.

# FLI Students at Barnard: Background Information . . .



*Where Columbia administration falters, students help students*

OPINION | OP-EDS

**“First-generation low-income” is not just your monolith**

OPINION | OP-EDS

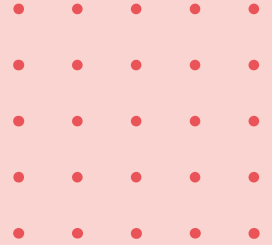
**Barnard’s ambiguity left low-income students confused and anxious in an emergency**

NEWS | STUDENT LIFE

**Barnard administrators announce increased programming for FGLI community at SGA meeting**

*How Can Barnard Help Cultivate Community for its FGLI Students?*

# Research Dimensions



## 01. Sociocultural

- Imposter syndrome
- Culture shock
- Feelings of stress due to work, academics, and other responsibilities

## 02. Academic

- Office hours
- Recommendation letters

## 03. Financial

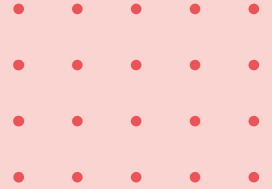
- Food insecurity
- Course material/textbook costs
- Work hours/responsibilities
- Financial support from college



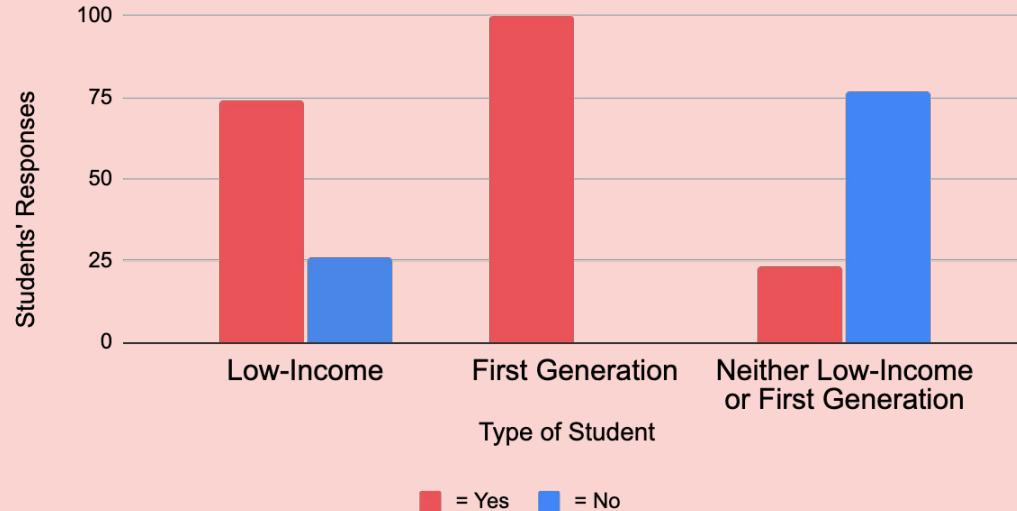
# Survey Design and Demographics

- Both FLI and non-FLI respondents
- ~5 minute survey with 17 questions
- 2-3 questions for each dimension
- 32 respondents: 59.4% are low-income, 34.4% are first-generation, 34.4% are both\*
- Class of 2021 overrepresented

# Screenshot of Results



Have you ever decided to not take a class because of the course material costs for the class?



## Quotes from FLI Student Respondents

“It took so long [to get SASA funds] that I almost gave up”.

“I requested funds for WiFi and they sent me enough for a month on the cheapest plan.”

“If I could do it all over again, I would have gone to a state school.”

“I often do not have enough time to do work and schoolwork.”

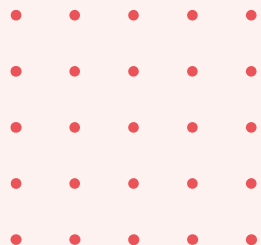
# FINDINGS AND IMPLICATIONS

## Findings

- Theory is partly confirmed
- FLI students generally respond that they experience social, academic, and financial challenges at higher rates than non-FLI peers
  - FLI students, however, attend office hours at higher rates
- Even higher rates of reported obstacles for first-gen and low-income students vs. low-income and **non**-first-gen students

## Implications

- The FLI experience at elite colleges requires additional scholarship and research—especially from elite schools themselves
- Elite colleges **MUST** increase transparency and effectively coordinate or expand financial resources for FLI students





**Thank you for  
listening! Any  
questions?**