

Third Space Scholars: Enacting Third Space Within The Academy

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About the Author

Benét DeBerry-Spence works at the Liautaud Graduate School of Business at the University of Chicago. Her research explores consumer creative processes that involve cross-cultural consumption and emphasize the experiences of African and African Diaspora consumers. Dr. DeBerry-Spence has extended this work to include scholars working with consumers in developing countries and with research agendas characterized as transformative.

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Abstract

This paper explores the notion of “Third Space”, the space between the academy and activism. This space allows the academician to make sense of her contribution to social change. The author uses literature from divergent disciplines and from a transformative research initiative working with the MASAZI Welcome Center in Accra, Ghana, West Africa, to better understand how an academician experiences third space. The author created the center to support the economic empowerment of micro-business owners through its mediation of social and economic differences that often exist between tourists and hosts. Her understanding of third space is shaped by this particular set of experiences.

