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In Defense of Sociologist Christina Cross

The American Sociological Association condemns, in the strongest possible terms, unfounded accusations of plagiarism against Harvard University Assistant Professor of Sociology Dr. Christina Cross for her straightforward description of public data. Her description is both standard procedure in the field and good science that allows subsequent researchers to replicate her findings.

We are also deeply disturbed by political actors misrepresenting the scientific process. These false claims of plagiarism are a political attack that exploits the gap between the normal scientific process and the public's understanding of that process. These actors also appear to be working to undermine faith in the research process and delegitimize academic knowledge by attacking racial diversity and the inclusion of highly qualified Black faculty and leaders in colleges and universities.

Bad-faith accusations as part of a broader set of politically motivated attacks on diversity and social science are deeply destructive to a healthy democracy.