



**The College of Graduate Studies and the College of Education Cordially Invite
You to a**

PhD Dissertation Defense

Entitled

*THE IMPACT OF SCHOOL CLIMATE ON ADOLESCENTS' SENSE OF BELONGING IN AL AIN
SCHOOLS: A MIXED METHOD STUDY*

by

Wafaa Mohammed Ali El Zaatari

Faculty Advisor

Dr. Ali Ibrahim, Foundations of Education Department
College of Education

Date & Venue

17:00

Thursday, 11 June 2020

Blackboard Collaborate Ultra

<https://eu.bbcollab.com/guest/f8f9c5853a444dd19db162748d7627b8>

Abstract

To compete internationally, Al Ain educational system, and the UAE education system at large, is directed by the UAE 2021 National Agenda and seems to be driven by results. The purpose of this study aims to explore the school climate factors that may impact on adolescents' sense of belonging. Bronfenbrenner's (1979) Ecological System Theory is used as the framework in this study. The study employed a sequential exploratory research design, that started by using interviews to collect qualitative data from eight male and eight female students in grade 11, and eight of their teachers in schools in Al Ain. The NVivo software program was used to thematically analyze the data. Based on the qualitative results, the researcher developed survey to collect quantitative data from a larger sample of 216 male and 227 female grade 11 students and 264 of their teachers. A multiple linear regression was used to analyze the students and teachers' questionnaires. The study concluded that teacher-student relationships, frequent exams, the school curriculum and aggressive behavior were the main reasons behind adolescents hated going to school and feeling that they did not belong there. However, positive peer relationships, safety, and extracurricular activities were reasons for them to feel belonging to their school. As the most important school climate factors have been identified, the administrators and policymakers will be enlightened on how to improve schools' standard practices in order to satisfy the adolescent students' psychosocial developmental needs of belonging.

Keywords: Adolescents, school climate, belonging to school, UAE