



Ruth Cronje

Professor
English

Self-Stigmatizing Beliefs Suppress Democratic Participation among Low-Income Individuals at the Community Table of Eau Claire

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Individuals with low-income are often stigmatized as lazy, shiftless, and deserving of their poverty. Often, low-income individuals themselves share these self-stigmatizing attitudes. Low-income individuals are also less likely to vote, petition their congressional representatives, and participate in other forms of democratic activity. Our study, conducted among guests at the Community Table of Eau Claire, investigated whether self-stigmatizing attitudes were associated with guests' willingness to sign petitions or write letters to their congressional representatives to express their opinions about cuts to the Foodshare program.

