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Reinforcing the Educational Glass Ceiling: For-Profit Institution's Cost of Attending for Women

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The background features a complex geometric pattern of triangles in various shades of green and grey. The top half is mostly white with scattered green triangles, while the bottom half is a dense, dark grey and green mosaic. A dark grey horizontal band is positioned across the middle, containing the title text.

REINFORCING THE EDUCATIONAL GLASS CEILING: FOR-PROFIT INSTITUTION'S COST OF ATTENDING FOR WOMEN

Kristen Blazek, PhD

Stream



A stack of several books is shown on a light-colored wooden surface. The books are slightly out of focus, with the top book having a white cover and the others having darker covers. The word "Introduction" is written in a clean, white, sans-serif font, centered over the books. The background is a soft, warm-toned blur of the wooden surface and the books.

Introduction

Jane

I had always wanted to be a nurse...If there was a million reasons why I didn't go to school when I was young, which I should have because hindsight's 20/20. But when I finally got up the courage to go back to school, I was 36 years old...I looked around, and I probably should have done a lot more research, but at my age, I wanted to just get something that was quick to get into and all-inclusive and get done fast. (Jane, 2020)

- 36 years old
- Mother
- Sister
- Daughter
- Wife
- Nurse
- For-profit Institution Alumni



Literature Review

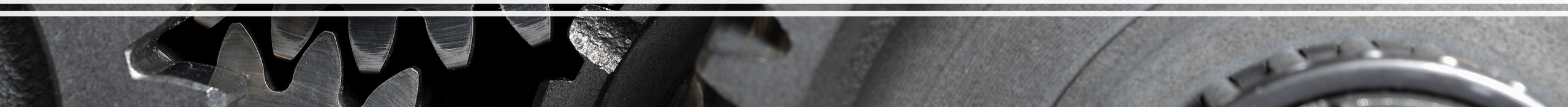
FPI Comparison

- Dilemma
 - Benefits
 - FPIs cater to nontraditional students
 - More accessible and flexible
 - Accelerated
 - Costs
 - High tuition
 - High default rates
 - Low educational standards
 - Career prospects same as high school diploma





Methodology



Methods

Qualitative

Narrative approach

Social constructivist

Research Questions

What dimensions of first-generation women's life experience, particularly the social and structural arrangements of their education, contribute to their choice of a for-profit college or university?

What role does the for-profit institution play in women's post-secondary educational advancement?

Data Collection

- Semi-structured interview
 - Social and structural categories of questions
 - Zoom
 - One meeting
 - 60-90 minutes

Data Analysis

Audio files uploaded into transcript software

- Temi
- Reviewed several times

Nvivo Software to organize data

- First-step coding methods (Saldaña, 2016)
 - Initial coding
 - In-Vivo coding
- Second Step
 - Code Mapping and Landscaping
 - Creation of themes

Trustworthiness



Triangulation

Multiple participants

Interviews

Documentation



Memos

Positionality and Subjectivity

Work in higher
education

Work with non-
traditional
students

Knowledgeable
about higher
education

Identify as a
woman

Raised with
gender norms

Went to public
schools

The image shows a vast field of empty yellow stadium seats, arranged in neat rows that recede into the distance. Each seat has a small, light-colored oval sticker on its backrest, containing a number. The numbers are arranged in a grid, with the same number appearing on every seat in a given row. For example, the front-most row has seats numbered 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, and 12. The word "Participants" is written in a large, white, sans-serif font across the middle of the image, centered over the rows of seats.

Participants

Participants

Name	FPI Attended	Degree
Louise	National Technical Institute (NTI)	Computer Science Associate's
Mary	National Technical Institute (NTI)	Computer Science Associate's
Rachel	National For-Profit Technical College (NFPTC)	Nursing Associate's
Mia	Local Medical Training College (LMTC)	Medical Assistant Certificate
Mariah	Regional Technical School (RTS) National For-Profit University (NFPU)	Business Management Associates, Bachelor's, Master's
Jane	National Nursing Technical School (NNTS)	Nursing Associate's

Louise

“I would do things differently. I would definitely do things differently...I didn't know what I was getting myself into and I'm looking here [record of debt] at all this capitalized interest at the beginning and it's kinda making me sick”

A dark, high-contrast photograph of a wooden floor with a grid pattern, overlaid with white text. The text is centered and reads: Debt, \$45,000*, ASSOCIATE DEGREE.

Debt
\$45,000*
ASSOCIATE DEGREE

Mary

“They [FPI] cost twice as much as regular college. That should have been a red flag.”

A dark, high-contrast photograph of a carpet with a geometric pattern, overlaid with white text. The carpet features a repeating pattern of squares and circles. The text is centered and reads:

Debt
\$62,000
ASSOCIATE DEGREE

Rachel

“I would go back [to state university] and I would do that over again. Yeah. In a heartbeat. But I mean you live and you learn from your mistakes and one day, you know, when I have kids then, you know, I can tell them about my decisions and my choice and let them make their own.”

A dark, high-contrast photograph of a wooden floor with a grid pattern, overlaid with white text. The text is centered and reads: Debt, \$70,000, and ASSOCIATE DEGREE.

Debt
\$70,000
ASSOCIATE DEGREE

Mariah

“I figure for me, I just had a very bad luck with jobs and things like that. I didn't get a good start for me. I didn't get a good start personally. I figured sometimes it wasn't about my degree. It was about who you knew and that's just been my experience so far.”



Debt
\$90,000

BACHELORS & MASTERS DEGREE

Jane

*“I feel like that's just, that's just who I am.
And I decided I'm going to do something, I'm
going to do it. I'm [a] super strong personality
and when I decide I'm doing something, I'm
going to do it and I'm going to do it all the
way”*



Debt
\$100,000
ASSOCIATE DEGREE

Mia

“I do really good research. So I'm pretty careful about choosing it. I probably wouldn't be deterred enough to go back to one. Um, um, but I tend to do like really thorough research.”

The background is a dark, monochromatic image with a complex, textured pattern. It features a grid of squares, some of which contain faint, light-colored numbers. The overall appearance is that of a worn, possibly stone or concrete, surface with a grid overlay. The lighting is dramatic, with strong shadows and highlights that emphasize the texture.

Debt
\$2,000

CERTIFICATE DEGREE

Participants

Name	FPI Attended	Degree	Debt
Louise	National Technical Institute (NTI)	Computer Science Associate's	\$45,000*
Mary	National Technical Institute (NTI)	Computer Science Associate's	\$62,000
Rachel	National For-Profit Technical College (NFPTC)	Nursing Associate's	\$70,000
Mia	Local Medical Training College (LMTC)	Medical Assistant Certificate	\$2,000
Mariah	Regional Technical School (RTS)	Business Management Associates, Bachelor's,	\$50,000
	National For-Profit University (NFPU)	Master's	\$40,000
Jane	National Nursing Technical School (NNTS)	Nursing Associate's	\$100,000

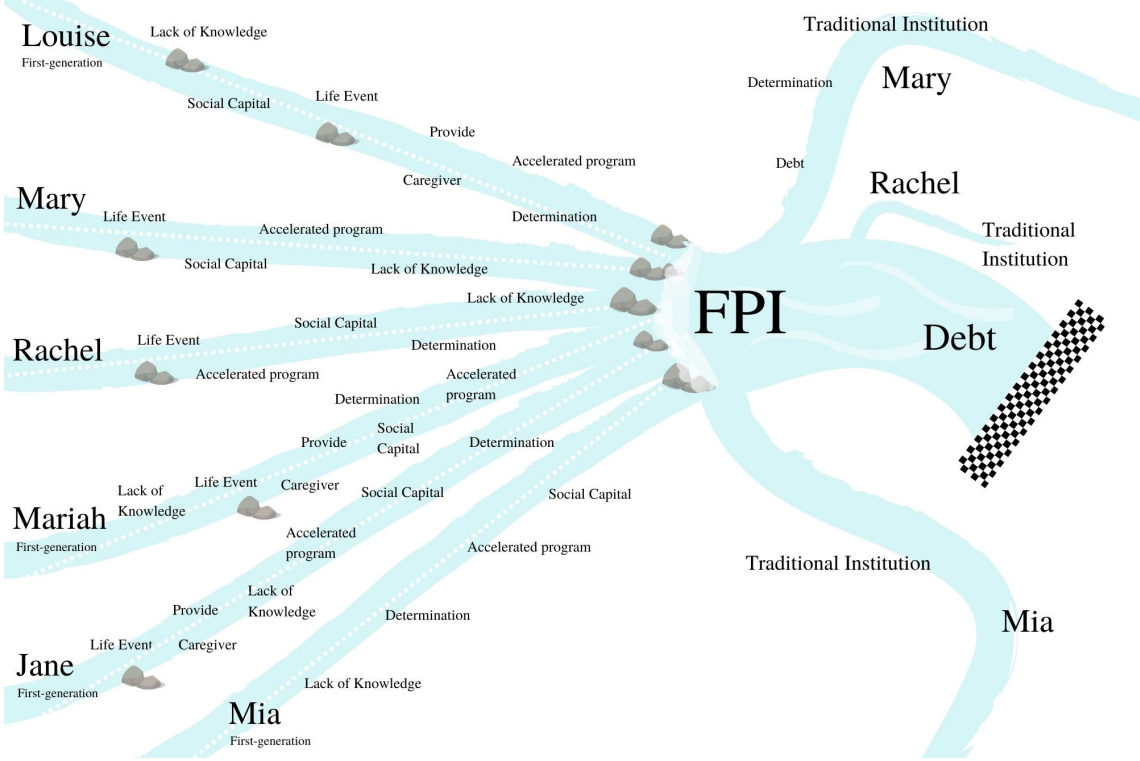
*estimated cost of attendance

A photograph of a desk with a laptop, a calendar, and a folder. The text "Discussion and Conclusion" is overlaid in the center. The background shows a laptop keyboard, a calendar with a weekly layout, and a folder with a "NOTES" tab. The scene is dimly lit, with a dark overlay on the image.

Discussion and Conclusion

CROSS NARRATIVE ANALYSIS

- Lack of Higher Education Knowledge
- Accelerated Programs
- Major Life Events
- Caregiver
- Determination
- Social Networks with Sometimes Limited Post-Secondary Expertise
- Provide economic stability
- Debt



Recommendations



Conclusion

