Assessing Recycling Attitudes and Behaviors: An Exploration of the Process of Environmental Research

Elyssa Romino
Environmental Studies Honors Seminar Thesis
Faculty Adviser: Anne Rademacher

Abstract

This paper explores the process of environmental research through the lens of a research experience centered upon an empirical investigation of the relationship between students' environmental attitudes and recycling behaviors at New York University. After establishing the value of a psychological perspective in exploring such a relationship, this paper presents methods used to develop a survey to assess and measure its extent among a sample of NYU's undergraduate population. However, due to obstacles encountered in obtaining permission to carry out the proposed research on a large scale, the focus of this project later shifted. Thus rather than offering and interpreting quantitative results of the survey that was developed, this paper uses the results of the research experience to suggest analytical insights surrounding the way in which the process of environmental research may be perceived, constrained and ultimately moderated by the context of the institutional form of the university in which it was undertaken.