

From: Aqsa Khan

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Subject: Psychology Dept tokenizes minorities, hires bully to teach PSY 354, please be informed

For those who are considering applying to the MAPR program, Master of Arts in Psychology Research, I would urge you to reconsider. The Psychology Department here only makes a perfunctory effort to be inclusive in order to deflect any accusations of discrimination.

The program tokenizes minority students by pushing one or two to the forefront in order to appear diverse while doing little to actually help the majority of BIPOC students in any tangible manner, if not outright ignoring and denying them opportunities. In reality, the faculty this department employs and continues to employ have created an inequitable climate in this program. Professors in this program have asked minority students who were born and raised here if English was their first language. They have also accused minority students of plagiarism because they were suspicious of their writing, despite any evidence to the contrary.

This semester, they have hired a student, Sukhman Rekhi, to teach PSY 354 - Psychology of Women, Tuesday/Thursday at 3:30 PM. If you or anyone you know is enrolled in this course, please reconsider and please pass this on so others are aware. The Psychology Department, namely our Department Chair, Sherry Span, has continued to push this student to act as a representative for BIPOC students in our cohort and even in our program, at large, but this person does not represent us. This student was a cohort representative for our class of 2021 who constantly abused her position to bully and spread gossip regarding minority students and faculty from our MAPR program, Master of Arts in Psychology Research.

Our first semester, Rekhi spread around a list of names from our cohort that a professor disliked. This was a ranking of primarily minority students that Rekhi alleges came directly from faculty.

Our second semester, Rekhi used the Black Lives Matter movement to try and install her friend as a diversity representative. She emailed a letter to faculty insisting the cohort would like a diversity representative, but this was not a decision our cohort decided together. Many of us first heard about it from the letter she emailed us and she halted any further discussion among our cohort using her close confidantes to publicly silence BIPOC students via our GroupMe cohort chat group. FYI, our diversity representative candidates were both White, which did not matter much, as Rekhi ended up manipulating the votes in the end.

Our third semester, Rekhi went around telling everyone the professor for statistics is an alcoholic. She repeated this multiple times. She also labelled another student in our program a racist and went around telling both students and faculty about this student's alleged racism, until most everyone had isolated this student.

Rekhi regularly belittles the abilities of students who attended CSUs, often reaching out to students who attended UCs or other Ivies to disparage students who attended CSUs. She attended UC Irvine.

Rekhi went around creating discord between students in our cohort regarding funding allocation, conferences, and other bureaucratic information related to our program that only she was privy to due to her role as a cohort representative.

She also engaged in more juvenile bullying. She would disparage how we looked or how we behaved. If any of you know her, she loves to draw and she would draw students and write awful comments on the side and pass them along for others to add to them. She is 20-something years old, but she behaves like a junior high school bully. This is not someone that should be entrusted to teach, much less have any access to our student records given her conduct and behavior in the past.

I am not sure if the faculty in our department appreciates the personal and private information, she provides them with because I cannot explain why else our department, specifically our department chair, Sherry Span, has not only dismissed any complaints against Rekhi, but has gone to great lengths to protect, and now employ this student who bullied us semester after semester. I am writing to everyone so that people know exactly what is happening and the Psychology Department here can no longer conceal and deflect from her abuse of power. I have reached out to HR to ask them what they intend to do to ensure our privacy is protected, but please inform yourself and your peers so they can try and protect themselves accordingly.

And whether any of the aforementioned conduct is problematic to you or not, I hope you can understand why as paying students we should demand a higher standard from our faculty and even from our future faculty. Rekhi has barely any teaching experience, just finished defending her thesis this past summer and was rejected from every Ph.D. program she applied to this past year. We have had many stellar graduates from our program, but not only did this graduate gossip about many of us, she is barely qualified to teach. If the MAPR program was genuinely committed to diversity, maybe they can start by accepting more than one Black student into the MAPR program or allocating more funding for Black students in our cohort instead of creating performative diversity committees led by White representatives. If you or anyone you know is enrolled in her course, please share this email and let them know so they can decide for themselves.

If you would like to know more, please feel free to contact me. [Here](#) are some hand-picked testimonials from students in our program, including Rekhi.

Please share, thank you