

Should I stay or should I go? Student descriptions of the doctoral attrition process.

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## **Should I Stay or Should I Go? Student Descriptions of the Doctoral Attrition Process**

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### Abstract

Little is known about the process of doctoral student attrition. Relying on theories of socialization and integration, this paper examines the cases of three students who left their doctoral programs. Their experiences show that academic integration plays a greater role in attrition than social integration. Furthermore, the academic integration process can be ruptured, particularly when a student-advisor relationship ends. The paper also questions the idea that degree completion equals success and that attrition equals failure.



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