**Abstract**

Microaggressions are the everyday verbal, nonverbal, and environmental slights, snubs, or insults, whether intentional or unintentional, that communicate hostile, derogatory, or negative messages to target persons based solely upon their marginalized group membership (Sue et al., 2007). As intersectional microaggression research remains understudied (Sterzing et al., 2017), the purpose of this project is to extend the platform by documenting the experiences that Queer Black male experiences from microaggressions intraracially in their communities. Through qualitative research and an intersectional framework, I plan to examine the impacts, experiences, and coping methods that Queer Black men encounter from intersectional microaggressions, and additionally code how anti-Queer language is presented within Black vernacular language. Intersectional microaggression research is of high importance because prior research fails to take notice of the microaggressions that intersecting identity individuals encounter (Sterzing et al., 2017). Although they might be invisible and subtle, microaggressions are truly damaging.

**Keywords**

Terms and Keywords:

- Microaggressions: Microaggressions are brief, everyday exchanges that send denigrating messages to certain individuals because of their group membership (Sue, 2010).
- Intersectionality: Intersectionality is known as the relationships among multiple dimensions and modalities of social relations and subject formations (McCall, 2005).
- Black Masculinity: Black Masculinity—as a subfield of Gender Studies—is tailored to study the typical behaviors of African American males (Milton, 2012).
- Queer: Queer, in sexual politics, description of sexuality that rejects normative definitions of appropriate feminine and masculine sexual behavior. More contemporary meanings of queer have been picked up and used by activists and academics to mark movements within sexual identity politics and theoretical frameworks for understanding gender and sexuality (Barber et al., 2017).

**Literature Review**

Themes across Microaggression Research:

- Predominately, research studies on single microaggressions are focused on social, gender, sexual orientation microaggressions (Sterzing et al., 2017).
- Within microaggression research there is an evident amount of studies focused on racial microaggressions. From the experiences of racial microaggressions there are themes that victims experience and encounter from microaggression perpetrators:
  - Assumed superiority of White cultural values/communication styles,
  - Assumption of deviance,

Gaps within Microaggression Research:

- Within the sociological and psychological field there is a dearth in intersectional microaggression research (Sterzing et al., 2017). The dearth in microaggression research perpetrates the lack of regard towards those who have intersecting identities or are double minorities. The absence of research is needed to document the experiences, impacts, and coping methods of intersectional microaggressions. Having empirical studies on this topic will be beneficial towards widening the perception of microaggressions within professional fields, society, and communities.

**Objectives**

Through qualitative investigation the purpose of this study is to address the gaps in microaggression research and examine: (1) What are the intersectional microaggressions that Queer Black males experience intraracially? (2) What are the effects of intersectional microaggressions? (3) What coping methods are used from being victims of microaggressions?

**Methods**

**Sampling Strategy:** Snowball Sampling

- It is sometimes used as the main vehicle through which informants are accessed, or as an auxiliary mean, which assists researchers in enriching sampling clusters, and accessing new participants and social groups when other contact avenues have dried up (Ng, 2008).

**Data Collection Strategy:** Key Informant Interviews

- Key informants’ world views are likely to affect how they define community and what they perceive as community strengths, weaknesses, needs, and potential (as cited in McKenna and Man, 2013).

**Coding and Analytical Strategy:**

- I will be adopting Gerald Wing Sue’s taxonomy (Sue, 2010) on microaggression themes and applying it to my responses from the key informant interviews.

**Themes across Microaggression Research:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Use of Sexist/Heterosexist Language:</th>
<th>Microaggression</th>
<th>Message</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Terms that exclude or degrade women and LGBT persons.</td>
<td>Use of the pronoun “he” to refer to all people.</td>
<td>Male experience is universal. Female experience is meaningless.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Denial of Individual Racial/Sexuality/Heterosexism: A statement made when bias is denied.</td>
<td>Two options for relationship status: married or single.</td>
<td>LGB partnerships do not matter/are meaningless.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second-CLASS Citizen: Occurs when a target group member receives differential treatment from the power group.</td>
<td>Person of color mistaken for a service worker.</td>
<td>People of color are servants to Whites. They couldn’t possibly occupy high status positions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assumption of Homosexuality: Occurs when it is implied that there is something wrong with being LGBT.</td>
<td>Two men holding hands in public are stared at by strangers.</td>
<td>You should keep your displays of affection private because they are offensive.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assumed superiority of White cultural values/communication styles, Assumption of deviance, Assumed universality of the Black American experience, (Henfield, 2011).</td>
<td>Students use the term “gay” to describe a fellow student who is socially ostracized at school.</td>
<td>People who are weird and different are “gay.”</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Figure 1.** Sue, Wing Derald. 2010. Microaggressions in Everyday Life: Race, Gender, and Sexual Orientation. John Wiley & Sons Inc.

**References**

- McKenna, Stacey and Main, Deborah. 2013. The role and influence of key informants in community-engaged research: A critical perspective. Action Research.

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