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 males experience 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 culture. 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:
- 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 obtaining 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 Main, 2013).

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

THEMES
- Culture
- Language
- Identity
- Personalities
- Themes across Microaggression Research:
- Use of Sexist/Heterosexist Language: Terms that exclude or degrade women and LGBT persons.

MESSAGE
- Use of the pronoun “he” to refer to all people.
- Male experience is universal. Female experience is meaningless.
- LG&B partnerships do not matter/are meaningless.
- “I’m not racist. I have several Black friends.”
- I am immune to racism because I have friends of color.
- I am incapable of sexism.
- As an employer, I always treat men and women equally.
- Person of color mistaken for a service worker.
- People of color are servants to Whites. They couldn’t possibly occupy high status positions.
- Assumption of deviance: Ourselves when it is implied that there is something wrong with being LGBT.

Assumption of abnormality: Occurs when it is implied that there is something wrong with being LGBT.
- Two men holding hands in public are stared at by strangers.
- You should keep your displays of affection private because they are offensive.
- Students use the term “gay”to describe a fellow student who is socially ostracized at school.
- People who are weird and different are “gay”.

Future Directions

In part of the analytical and coding process, after analyzing the responses from their key informant interviews, I will adopt Sue’s taxonomy and code how anti-Queer microaggressions presents itself within Black Vernacular Language.

By studying intraracial anti-Queer microaggressions within Black communities, this research will aid in furthering intersectional discussion within microaggression research in the Sociological field, as well as extend or provide platforms of discussions on microaggressions and the various/complex masculine identities in Black communities.

References


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