Abstract
Microaggressions are reoccurring derogatory messages that degrade and/or discredit one’s identity. While invisible and unknown to many, they remain visible and apparent to those impacted by them. The research questions for this project are: (1) What microaggressions do Queer Black men experience within larger society? (2) To contrast with larger society, what microaggressions do Queer Black men experience within Black communities? By conducting focus groups, I will examine the intersectional microaggressions that Queer Black men experience in their own community, as well as document microaggressions that they experience in larger society. After conducting my focus groups, I will be adopting Derald Wing Sue’s taxonomy of microaggression themes to translate the underlying messages behind delivered microaggressions. The results in this study will aid in addressing an apparent gap within microaggression literature by, documenting how Queer Black men experience these muted, normalized insults and invalidations in society.

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 studies on single identity microaggressions are focused on racial, gender, sexual orientation microaggressions (Sterzing et al., 2017).
- Within microaggression studies there is an evident amount of studies focused on racial microaggressions. From the experiences of racial microaggressions there is themes that victim’s experience and encounter from microaggression perpetrators:
  - Microaggressions are primarily studied in psychology with scholars focusing on the individual, and/or any stressors that one experiences from receiving microaggressions (Embrick et al., 2017).
  - Kevin Nadal et al. (2011) conducted focus groups to investigate and analyze how LGB individuals coped and processed the effects of sexual orientation microaggressions, and additionally examined how LGB individuals were impacted mentally from these microaggressions. Various results appeared from this study.
  - Cognitive individually reacted with attitudes of resilience, empowerment, conformity, and acceptance (Nadal et. Al, 2011). Emotional reactions individuals were found were feelings of discomfort, feeling unsafe, anger/frustration, sadness, and embarrassment/shame (Nadal et Al, 2011).
  - The study also argued, “Several participants cited how microaggressions may have led to specific mental health problems, namely depression, anxiety, and post-traumatic stress disorder” (Nadal et. Al, 2011).

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 while other contact avenues have dried up. (Ng, 2008)

Data Collection Strategy: Focus Groups
- Focus groups range in size from 6 to 12 individuals and capitalize on group dynamics to stimulate discussion (Guest, 2017)

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.

Future Directions
- In part of the analytical and coding process, after analyzing the responses from they key informant interviews, I will adopt Sue’s taxonomy and code how anti-Queer microaggressions presents itself within Black Vernacular Language.
- By studying anti-Queer microaggressions within African American/Black communities and wider society, 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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