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 male experience in their own community, as well as document microaggression that they experience in larger society. After conducting my focus groups, I will be adopting Derald Wing Sue’s taxonomy of microaggression theories to translate the underlying messages behind delivered microaggressions. The results in this study will aid in addressing an appeared gap within microaggression literature by, documenting how Queer Black males experience these muted, normalized insults and invalidations in society.

Keywords

Terms and Keywords:
- Microaggressions: Microaggressions are brief, every day, exchanges that send denigrating messages to certain individuals based on 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 (Milon, 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).

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 enlisting sampling clusters, and accessing new participants and social groups while other contact avenues have dried up (Noy, 2008).

Data Collection Strategy: Focus Groups
- Focus groups range in size from 6 to 12 individuals and capitulate 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.

Methods

Literature Review

Themes across Microaggressions Research
- Predominantly studies on single identity microaggressions are focused on racial, gender, sexual orientation microaggressions (Sterzing et al., 2017).
- Within microaggressions study 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:
  - Microaggressions study are primarily studied in psychology with scholars focusing on the individual, and/or any stressors that one experiences from receiving microaggressions (Embruck et al., 2017).

Interpersonal: When Black men experience with larger society?

While within sociological and psychological field there is a dearth of research, 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).

Objective

Through qualitative investigation the purpose of this study is to address and examine: (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?

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


Acknowledgements

A huge thank you to my mentor, Dr. Anna Smedley-López and the McNair Scholars Program.