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Sydney Harris

What is Modern Homonegativity?

Homonegativity is negative attitudes towards homosexual individuals (Rye & Meaney, 2010). Homonegativity has been used as a term to describe the deeply internalized and private negative attitudes towards homosexuals. An individual who is homonegative may not be outwardly homophobic (Morrison, Kenny, & Harrington, 2005). "Modern homonegativity" is based on the beliefs that gay men and lesbian women are making undeserving and ridiculous demands for social change, prejudice against homosexuals is in the past, and gay men and lesbian women place too much emphasis on their sexuality, so therefore the discrimination against them is justifiable (Morrison, Kenny, & Harrington, 2005).

Participants

Participants in this study will be approximately 80 Carroll College students and 80 Widener University students over the age of 18. Participants will be recruited by introducing the premise of the study to select classes and inviting students to come to one of the offered sessions.

Procedure

Students who choose to participate in the study will complete a Subject Consent Form for Participation in Human Research. Participants will complete a paper and pencil assessment that takes approximately thirty minutes to complete. Participants will then be asked demographic information following the completion of the other three surveys. Statistical analyses of participant demographics and the three scales will be done to determine any significant results between homonegativity, social and economic conservatism, anti-femininity, and differences in homonegativity toward gay men and lesbian women. This study will be conducted simultaneously at Carroll College (Helena, MT) and at Widener University (Chester, PA) in the Fall of 2019.

Measures

The Modern Homonegativity Scale (Morrison & Morrison, 2002) will be used to measure homonegativity, the Social and Economic Conservatism Scale (Everett, 2013) will be used to measure how conservative the participants are in terms of social and economic issues, and the Anti-femininity Scale (Thompson, Jr. & Pleck, 1986) will be used to measure the aversion to feminine characteristics. Demographic information will be asked from the participants; this includes: age, race, sex, religious preference, gender identity, sexual orientation, type of high school attended, type of sex education received, and length of sex education program.

Modern Homonegativity Scale – Gay Men

(Morrison & Morrison, 2002)

Item 1: Many gay men use their sexual orientation so that they can obtain special privileges.

Item 4: The notion of universities providing students with undergraduate degrees in Gay and Lesbian Studies is ridiculous.

The 12 Item Social and Economic Conservatism Scale (SECS)

(Everett, 2013)

Item 5: Welfare benefits (reverse scored). (E)

Item 6: Gun ownership. (E)

Item 7: Traditional marriage. (S)

Anti-femininity Subscale from the Male Role Norms Scale

(Thompson & Pleck, 1986)

Item 1: It bothers me when a man does something I consider "feminine."

Item 5: If I heard about a man who was a hairdresser or dancer, I might wonder how masculine he was.

Theories

There are multiple theoretical explanations for homonegativity; these include the functional perspective, the gender belief system, the self-discrepancy theory, and hegemonic masculinity (Jewell & Morrison, 2012). An example of the functional perspective is if a person is prejudice against homosexuals because it is the value their church believes and condones. The gender belief system states that males and females have specific roles assigned to them, and that homosexuals are violating those roles (Jewell & Morrison, 2012). The self-discrepancy theory is based on the idea that men with a masculine identity have an aversion to femininity. Since women are often still seen as inferior, feminine traits are deemed as less desired than masculine traits. Therefore, men are likely to be prejudice toward gay men with feminine characteristics (Jewell & Morrison, 2012). Hegemonic masculinity is belief that there are different masculinities and that the one with the highest status is heterosexual masculinity. Homosexual masculinity is perceived as subordinate, and in order to maintain social order, homonegativity arises (Jewell & Morrison, 2012).

Hypotheses

I formulated the hypothesis that the participants' level of modern homonegativity will be positively correlated with their level of social and economic conservatism and their level of anti-femininity. I also hypothesize the inverse; the participants who score the lowest on the Modern Homonegativity Scale (Morrison & Morrison, 2002) will score lower on the Social and Economic Conservatism Scale (Everett, 2013) and the Anti-femininity Scale (Thompson, Jr. & Pleck, 1986). Another hypothesis is that there will be less homonegativity toward lesbian women than gay men. An additional hypothesis is that abstinence only sex education will be associated with more homonegativity toward lesbian women and gay men.