

Exploring the Closet: Reconceptualizing *Machismo* Through Masculinity and Queer

Disruption

Presented by: José Morin

Question

How do different degrees of acceptance of queer sexualities within an ethnic community affect the social interactions and navigation of community ties for queer identifying, U.S. born, first generation American Latinx males?

Theoretical Framework

- Hegemonic Masculinity/Reconceptualization
- Machismo
- Narratives of “Coming Out” and “Liberation”
- Perspectives of Gender and Sexuality within Latin America
- Autonomy and Queer Disruption

Participants

- U.S. born
- Second-generation Immigrant
- Queer identifying
- Latinx, Male Identifying
- 18-25 years old
- "Out" to a Latinx Community
- 15 Participants labeled further in the table

Table 1.

Demographic Information of Participants

Code-Name	Demographic	Location	Sexuality
Abraham	Puerto Rico	Columbia, South Carolina	Bisexual
Alejandro	Salvadorian	Falls Church, Virginia	Gay
Daniel	Mexican	Chicago, Illinois	Gay
Eric	Mexican	California	Gay
Esteban	Mexican	Chicago, Illinois	Queer
Fernando	Mexican/Salvadorian	Los Angeles, California	Bisexual
Isaac	Mexican/Salvadorian	Birmingham, Alabama	Queer
Jacob	Mexican	Hammond, Indiana	Pansexual
Julio	Mexican	Toledo, Ohio	Bisexual
Leandro	Mexican	Springdale, Arkansas	Gay
Mateo	Mexican	Dallas, Texas	Gay
Matt	Mexican	Riverside, California	Gay
Miguel	Honduras	Damascus, Maryland	Gay
Raul	Ecuadorian	Ft. Lauderdale, Florida	Gay
Sandro	Columbian	Weston, Florida	Pansexual

Methods

- Information diffused through social media posts
- I utilized snowball recruitment to garner more participants
- The qualitative interview consisted of a short demographic survey and a 45-60 min conversation
- The qualitative data collected was transcribed
- The transcription was coded through an inductive approach and a codebook (themes, quotes)

All participants are under anonymous code names*

Results

- Invisibility through Machismo
 - Ascribing to norms of machismo to enact hyper-masculine behavior in order to perform heteronormativity for safety
- Liberation and Autonomy?
 - Pervasive narratives of coming out and feelings of liberation afterwards illustrate the impact of heteronormative structures
- Queering Machismo
 - Participants enacted omission, adaptation, and aesthetization of religious practices in order to feel safe. The action of adaptation and aesthetization disrupts the heteronormative norms engraved in machismo's values therefore queering this action through purposeful disruption.

Contribution

- Reconceptualizing Machismo allow for:
 - The narratives of queer second generation immigrant Latino men to be further implemented into literature
 - And allows for further discussion of queer disruption through existing masculinity frame work