

Oral Defense Announcement

University of Missouri – St. Louis Graduate School

An oral examination in defense of the dissertation for the degree
Doctor of Philosophy in Psychology with an emphasis in Clinical-Community Psychology

Veronica M. High

M.A. in Psychology, August 2018, University of Missouri – St. Louis
M.B.A., December 2007, Missouri Baptist University
B.A. in Economics Business Emphasis, May 2005, University of Northern Iowa

Race, Masculinity, and Personality Development: Understanding the Black Male Experience in America

Date: April 27, 2022
Time: 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Place: Remote

Abstract

Though men from all racial backgrounds have several poorer health outcomes in comparison to women, most of the research suggests that Black men have worse health outcomes compared to White men (Bowman, 1989; Watkins & Neighbors, 2007; Williams, 2003). The majority of published research on masculinity, however, has primarily focused on samples of White men. The issue of how racism intersects with masculinity and its impact on Black men remains understudied and is a current area of focus in the field. One area of particular interest is the impact of masculine identity on the development of personality among Black men. The present study examined relationships between Black men on a cultural measures of masculinity and self-esteem, Dark Triad, and self-compassion. Black men (N = 278) were recruited from mTurk to participate in a brief online survey. Structural equation modeling revealed that adherence to traditional/hegemonic masculine norms was more strongly and positively associated with self-esteem, endorsement of Dark Triad traits, and self-compassion. The relationship between Black masculinity and self-esteem and self-compassion was also positive, though these relationships were weaker. Black masculinity was negatively related to endorsement of Dark Triad traits which may serve as a protective factor. These findings highlight the need to better understand the ways in which multiple factors integrate and inherently influence personality as well as adaptive and maladaptive coping mechanisms among Black men. Intervention and prevention implications include integration of discussion related to masculinity themes (leadership, emotional restriction, familial relationships, etc.) in the research and therapy process.

Defense of Dissertation Committee

Matthew J. Taylor, Ph.D.
Ann Steffen, Ph.D.
Devin E. Banks, Ph.D.
Kathleen Nigro, Ph.D.